Hafa Adai!

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OPINION METER

This week's poll:

Do you support the proposed relocation of all adult businesses to a portion of Middle Road?

Let your voice be heard! Go to www.saipantribune.com to cast your vote.

INSIDE

Fewer Flights

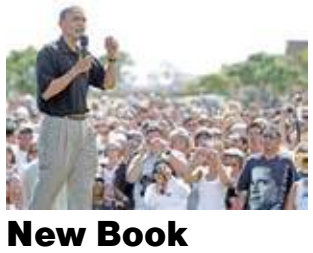
Airlines are cutting flights under the pressure of rising fuel costs.

BUSINESS...Page 13

Georgia Battles

Russia battled Georgian forces on land and sea, reports said late Sunday, despite a Georgian cease-fire offer.

WORLD...Page 16



New Book

Sen. Barack Obama, with the help of his campaign staff, has another book to share with readers: policy wonk.

LIFE & STYLE...Page 21

Villagomez, 3 others indicted

JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ

Lt. Gov. Timothy Villagomez is escorted by his wife Margaret and lawyer Teresa Kim, as well as other relatives, after a hearing at the U.S. District Court at the Horiguchi Building in Garapan yesterday afternoon.

JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ

Lt. Gov. Timothy Villagomez is escorted by lawyer Teresa Kim, while Secretary of Commerce James A. Santos, far right, and his wife Joaquina V. Santos run toward their respective cars to avoid the media after a hearing at the U.S. District Court at the Horiguchi Building in Garapan yesterday afternoon.

By STEFAN SEBASTIAN
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BUSINESS EDITOR

Lt. Gov. Timothy Villagomez entered a federal court Monday afternoon in handcuffs to face an indictment on three felony counts of wire fraud, conspiracy and theft of federal funds, the culmination of an extensive five-month investigation by federal authorities.

See VILLAGOMEZ on Page 4

RELATED NEWS

Fitial urges: Let the court of law decide. PAGE 2
Governor shall name successor if post becomes vacant. PAGE 2
VOICES: Reaction from the streets. PAGE 2

JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ

Lt. Gov. Timothy Villagomez, Commerce Secretary James A. Santos and his wife Joaquina V. Santos exit the U.S. District Court at the Horiguchi Building in Garapan after the hearing yesterday afternoon.

Local

Fitial urges: Let the court of law decide

If lieutenant governor's post becomes vacant, governor shall name successor

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Although deeply troubled by the indictment of Lt. Gov. Timothy P. Villagomez, Gov. Benigno R. Fitial said he respects the U.S. criminal justice system and trusts it to get to the truth of the matter.

"As Governor of the CNMI, and as a U.S. citizen, I cannot judge a person's guilt or innocence. That is for a court of law to decide," said Fitial in a statement.

Fitial

He said he was officially informed of Villagomez's arrest and indictment yesterday, Monday.

The governor said he understands that these federal charges relate to the lieutenant governor's previous administration of the troubled Commonwealth Utilities Corp.

Fitial said he has high confidence in the justice system, with due process and all of the procedural and constitutional safeguards afforded to every person charged under the law.

"I defer to the court and I will be content to follow this trial closely in the pursuit of justice. I trust that justice will ultimately be served pursuant to law," he said.

The governor said he recognizes the difficulty that this matter represents to the CNMI government and to the reputation of the Commonwealth abroad.

"I look forward to the quick and appropriate resolution of this matter for the benefit of our island community," Fitial added.

House Speaker Arnold I. Palacios said the only thing that people can do is to let the judicial system work its way.

"Personally, it's a sad day for the Commonwealth when this kind of things happen or a high official in the government faces this kind of charges. But at the same time, I feel for his family," said Palacios

House Floor Leader Joseph N. Camacho, who watched yesterday's court hearing, said he was there to show his support to the Villagomez family, especially to the lieutenant governor's mother.

"I understand that this is a family crisis. As an attorney I understand the procedures and we'll let the procedures take place," Camacho said.

Whenever a lieutenant governor's position is vacant, the governor shall appoint a successor, subject to the confirmation of the Senate.

This, according to the provisions of the CNMI Constitution is what will happen if Lt. Gov. Timothy Villagomez is convicted in federal court.

Veteran lawyer Stephen Woodruff, when asked by *Saipan Tribune* yesterday about this issue, cited Article 3 Section 3 of the NMI Constitution that provides that whenever the office is vacant, the governor shall appoint a successor, with the advise and consent of the Senate.

Woodruff said the governor appoints but the Senate has to confirm.

"It is important to remember that just because he [Villagomez] is charged, even if he is convicted, he can still hang on to his office," the lawyer said.

Woodruff said somebody could bring action, arguing that the lieutenant governor is in jail and can't perform the duties.

"He could still try to hold on to the office. [If that happens] then they will have to remove him by impeachment," Woodruff said.

He pointed out that the lieutenant governor's position will not be vacant until Villagomez either resigns or is removed.

"It might be possible to remove him by litigation. It is definitely possible to remove him by impeachment. But of course it requires action by both the House and the Senate," Woodruff said.

Press secretary Charles Reyes Jr. expressed a similar position.

Reyes said that, if Villagomez is convicted, Fitial would have to appoint a new lieutenant governor.

"My understanding is that under the CNMI Constitution, in a situation like that, the governor would have the authority to appoint a new lieutenant governor subject to Senate confirmation… just like a Cabinet member," Reyes said.

He pointed out that the Constitution provides language for successions in case incumbents are suddenly removed from office.

JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ
First assistant United States Attorney Jeffrey J. Strand announces the charges filed against Lt. Gov. Timothy Villagomez, Secretary of Commerce James A. Santos and his wife Joaquina, and former CUC executive director Anthony Guerrero, while Assistant U.S. Attorney Eric S. O'Malley looks on during a press conference at the Horiguchi Building in Garapan shortly after the hearing yesterday afternoon.

REPORTER'S NOTEBOOK

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

When the handcuffed Lt. Gov. Timothy Villagomez was brought inside the courtroom, many family members could be seen wiping away tears. Villagomez's brother, Public Health Secretary Joseph Kevin Villagomez, was visibly emotional, his eyes red with tears.

■ ■ ■

Lt. Gov. Villagomez was wearing a white long-sleeve and a black or dark blue slacks. His lawyer, Guam's famous David J. Lujan, was wearing similar clothes. The lieutenant governor has two other lawyers—Brien Sers Nicholas and Joey San Nicolas.

■ ■ ■

After the hearing, a court marshal again handcuffed the lieutenant governor and brought him outside the courtroom for processing. U.S. District Court for the NMI designated judge David A. Wiseman explained to the Villagomez family members and friends who were in the courtroom that handcuffing a defendant is part of the U.S. Marshal's procedures.

■ ■ ■

Attorney General Matthew Gregory and former Public Auditor Mike Sablan came at the same time to the courtroom. Gregory sat near Lt. Governor Villagomez, but later transferred to another bench. The hearing started at 1:05pm. Many people, mostly family members and friends of the Villagomez clan, watched the proceeding, but it was not enough to fill the wide courtroom.

■ ■ ■

Local journalists patiently waited for Lt. Gov. Villagomez outside the Horiguchi Building after the hearing. Villagomez, however, did not say a word to the media as family members quickly escorted him to a waiting vehicle. A journalist remembered the media's coverage in the Kazuyoshi Miura's case at the Superior Court. The journalist noted that the only difference is that the local media practitioners are fewer and they didn't push each other.

VOICES

Here is a sampling of the public's reaction to the indictment of Lt. Gov. Timothy Villagomez:

"If he did something wrong then he should be arrested. Justice should be served."
—Gus Evangelista, Koblerville

"It's very unfortunate. Of course it upsets me, especially in a situation with our economy being really bad. Our people are suffering economically. I wish him well, but if he is guilty then he should be held accountable."
—Rota resident who wished to remain anonymous

"I'm shocked, but yet not shocked. I'm glad someone is doing something to stop the corruption on this island."
—Angie, Finasisu

"I think as a public official you should not use money that way. You're cheating your community while trying to run in a high leadership position."
—Francis, Finasisu

"I think it's good. Serve justice for the Commonwealth. As an elected official in the CNMI, his obligation is to not break the law. I hope justice will be served. Saipan people are tired of this kind of attitude."
—Frank Sablan, Kagman

"I think it's good. I hope they get everyone else who has contributed to our CUC fiasco."
—Rick Gramlich

"I think it's a shame. We're going through hard times. It's a shame he did that to his people."
—Valerie, Finasisu

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
NORTHERN MARIANAS HOUSING CORPORATION

NOTICE OF REGULAR MEETING

Pursuant to Public Law 8-41, Section 12, the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation (NMHC) Board of Directors, through its Chairwoman of the Board, is hereby giving notice that a Regular Meeting of the Board will be held on Thursday, August 14, 2008, at 10:00 a.m. at the NMHC Conference Room in Garapan, Saipan. The public is welcome to submit written or oral comments regarding the agenda below. Individuals interested in attending the meeting and needing special accommodations are requested to contact NMHC in advance.

I. PRELIMINARY MATTERS
A. Call to Order
B. Roll Call

II. ADOPTION OF AGENDA

III. ADOPTION OF MINUTES
A. April 2, 2008 – Regular Meeting
B. April 28, 2008 – Special Meeting
C. May 6, 2008 – Special Meeting
D. June 5, 2008 – Special Meeting

IV. PUBLIC COMMENTS

V. COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS
A. Action Plan for Program Year 2008
B. Status of CDBG Projects

VI. MORTGAGE CREDIT PROGRAMS
A. Rural Development Appraisals
B. Status of Participating Banks
1. BankPacific
2. Bank of Hawaii
C. Other Loan Matters

VII. FIELD OFFICE REPORTS

VIII. FISCAL MATTERS

IX. EXECUTIVE SESSION

X. OTHER MATTERS

XI. ADJOURNMENT

NOTE: Pursuant to PL 8-41, Section 13(6) and (7), some discussion of the above may be under Executive Session.

/s/
MERCED (MARCIE) M. TOMOKANE
Vice Chairwoman of the Board

MARINE MONUMENT PUBLIC PRESENTATION SCHEDULE for the Week of August 11, 2008

Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday
4:00pm	6:00pm	7:00pm
Economic Study	Concept Overview	Economic Study

Presentations are open to the public and anyone interested in learning more is invited to attend.
No reservations required.

We are located at the JT Guerrero building in Garapan next to Asia Scooter Rentals.
This schedule will rotate weekly and presentations will be added.
Schedules will be noticed weekly on Tuesdays.
If you need more information please call us at 234-2665.

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Congressional delegation fails to see Fitial

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

FERDIE DE LA TORRE

Members of the congressional delegate led by Tony Babauta, third from left, pose with House Speaker Arnold Palacios, fourth from left, and Floor Leader Joseph N. Camacho, extreme right, during their meeting/courtesy call at the Legislature yesterday.

A visiting congressional delegation composed of staff members of the Committee on Natural Resources and the Committee on the Judiciary met yesterday with some members of the Legislature, the Attorney General, Saipan Chamber of Commerce, and workers' groups, but failed to see Gov. Benigno R. Fitial.

The delegation's leader, Tony Babauta, who is the staff director of the Subcommittee on Insular Affairs, refused to comment about their visit. The group is leaving today, Tuesday.

It was reported earlier that the delegation wants to make sure that the intent of Public Law 110-229 or the federalization law is being met and, to the greatest extent possible, minimize any adverse economic and fiscal effects as the law is implemented.

Press secretary Charles Reyes Jr. said Gov. Benigno R. Fitial failed to meet the delegation because of an urgent situation developing—the arrest and indictment of Lt. Gov. Timothy Villagomez.

"So it's so unfortunate that the governor was not able to meet with them. They have a very busy schedule. They are here for a limited amount of time today [Monday]," Reyes said.

Reyes said the delegation met with Attorney General Matthew Gregory before proceeding to the Legislature.

"We're not familiar with the purpose of their trip. I can't say because we don't know what the agenda was," he added.

After a meeting with some senators in the Senate chamber, the delegation had a 30-minute discussion with House Speaker Arnold Palacios and House Floor Leader Joseph N. Camacho.

Palacios told *Saipan Tribune* that the meeting was actually more of a courtesy call.

Palacios said the primary purpose of these congressional staff is to meet with CNMI leaders regarding federal immigration law.

He said the delegation wants to make sure local leaders are being involved in the rule-making process by giving them an opportunity to air some of the concerns.

"We did express some of our concerns," Palacios said.

The speaker said they impressed upon the group the CMMI's concerns with the timeline, particularly for the tourism visa waiver.

He said the Russian and Chinese tourism markets could potentially be impacted by the federalization law.

"The visa waiver for the Japanese and Korean tourism is not a problem. We want to see if there is a possibility of a special rule and consider the Russian and Chinese tourist that is beginning to develop in the Commonwealth," Palacios said.

Camacho said the meeting went well. "It was basically a courtesy visit on the part of delegation. We did air our concerns that we want the positions and the concerns of the CNMI to be considered in drafting the rules and regulations with regards to immigration," Camacho said.

After the Legislature's meeting, the delegation was set for a meeting with the Chamber.

At 2:30pm Babauta's delegation then had a meeting with some leaders and officials of workers' groups Dekada Movement, Coalition of United Workers, and Human Dignity Movement at Java Joe's in Dandan.

The Coalition and Human Dignity Movement handed their position papers requesting, among other things, for improved immigration status for long-term alien workers.

Over 100 members participate in consulate's training courses

According to the quarterly report of Course Trainings at the Philippine Overseas Labor Office, more than a hundred students have already participated in six classes sponsored by the consulate.

The training courses include Basic Nihongo 2, Basic Baking, Basic Bread Making, Culinary Arts, Basic Computer Operations and Home Décor plus Sewing.

According to the Philippine Consulate General, there were 29 students for the Basic Baking course. The class started on July 6 and ended on Aug. 10, 2008, and was handled by Ofelia Lopez.

The upcoming Basic Bread Making course currently boasts 30 enrollees. The class will start Aug. 17, 2008, ends Sept. 17, 2008, takes place from 9am-12pm and will also be instructed by Ofelia Lopez.

Basic Nihongo 2 started on July 20, 2008, will end on Aug. 31, 2008, is scheduled from 2pm to 5:30pm and will be instructed by Leopoldo "Jun" Rodriguez.

Basic Computer Operations has 40 students. The class started Aug. 10, 2008, will end Sept. 28, 2008, takes place from 1pm to 4pm and will be taught by Jousel Regilme.

The Culinary Arts class started Aug. 10, will end Sept. 14, is scheduled from 2pm to 5pm, and currently has 40 students.

The Home Décor plus Sewing class began Aug. 10, will end Sept. 14, is scheduled from 9am to 12pm, and currently has 31 students.

All classes take place on Sundays, except the Culinary Arts class, which takes place on Saturday.

For more information, call Lenore at 235-6992. ***(Saipan Tribune)***

Fire is ruled accidental

By KRISTI EATON
kristi_eaton@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

A short circuit and overloading are to blame for last week's fire at the O'Connor Berman Dotts & Banes law office on the second floor of the eight-story Marianas Business Plaza building in Susupe, according to the Department of Public Safety.

The fire was isolated to the office of attorney Joseph Horrey, witnesses said. Horrey is a member of the O'Connor law office.

The aluminum window and door framing had melted and the gypsum board had indications of clean burn marks, DPS said in a statement.

"Investigators discovered that the electrical wirings, found at the corner of the room, showed indications of globule," the statement said.

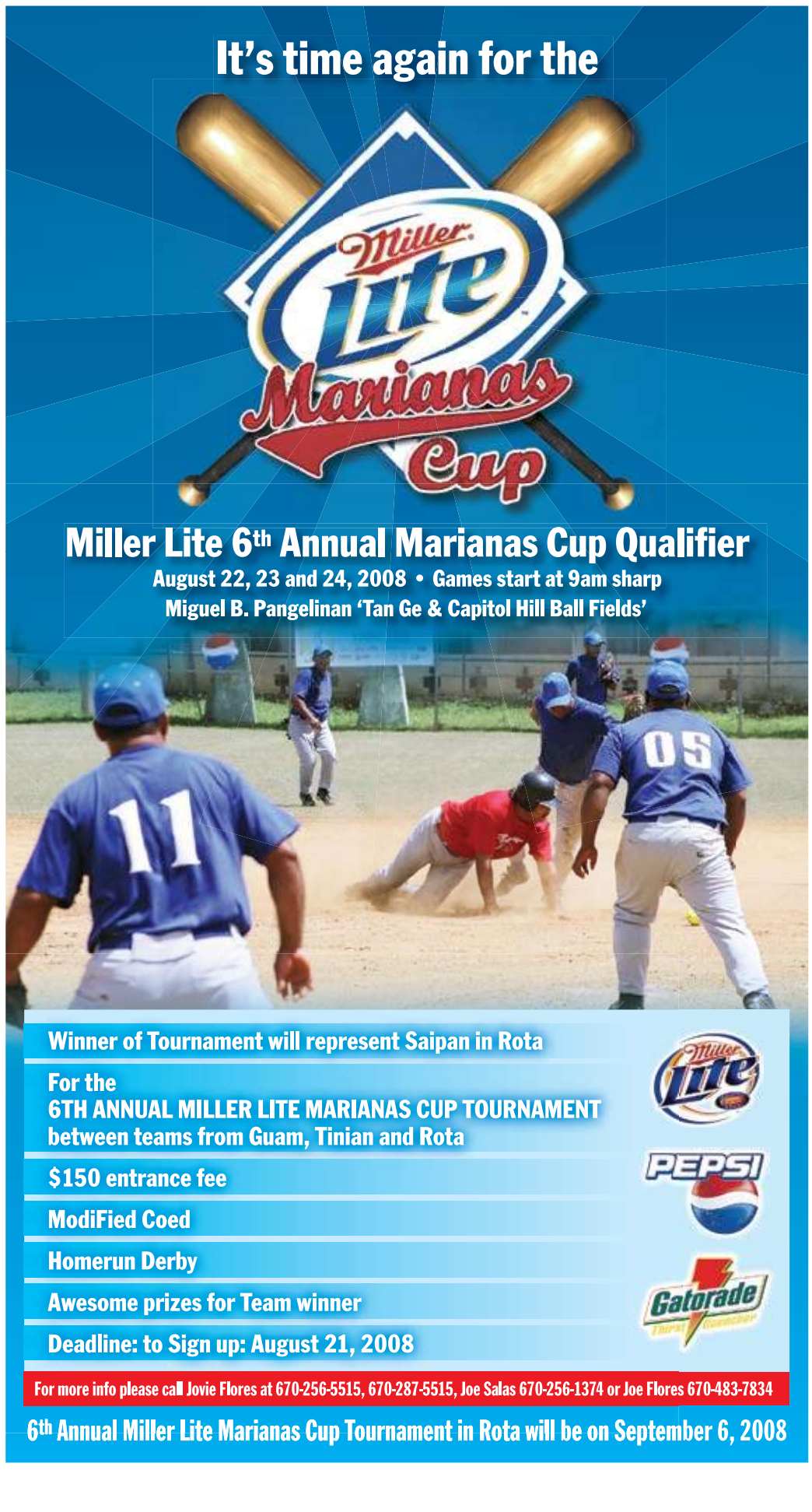
Lawyer Robert O'Connor estimated damage at $100,000.

He said 98 percent of files were not damaged because most were in cabinets in another room.

Saipan Tribune learned that as a result of the fire operation, water leaked to a portion of the first floor occupied by KWAW Radio Com.

The water damaged the radio station's one laptop computer, one computer printer, and one telephone unit, but the damage did not stop the station from operating.

The Marianas Business Plaza (formerly called Nauru Building), which houses about 40 establishments, lost its power due to the fire.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Miller Lite 6th Annual Marianas Cup Qualifier
August 22, 23 and 24, 2008 • Games start at 9am sharp
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For the
6TH ANNUAL MILLER LITE MARIANAS CUP TOURNAMENT
between teams from Guam, Tinian and Rota
$150 entrance fee
ModiFied Coed
Homerun Derby
Awesome prizes for Team winner
Deadline: to Sign up: August 21, 2008
For more info please call Jovie Flores at 670-256-5515, 670-287-5515, Joe Salas 670-256-1374 or Joe Flores 670-483-7834
6th Annual Miller Lite Marianas Cup Tournament in Rota will be on September 6, 2008

Squeak the cat is up for adoption

Squeak is a 2-year-old spayed female cat, who, until now, has been an exclusively indoor cat (litter box trained), although she thinks she might enjoy a bit of the great outdoors to become an indoor/outdoor kitty.

She loves to chase and meow at geckos and ants (I think she would be an excellent rat/mouse catcher, too!), is great with other cats and dogs (her current owner has fostered many of both, and Squeak loves to play with the kittens and sass the dogs!), and also great with kids.

She isn't a big shedder, is a very meticulous groomer (she's always bathing herself!), and *loves* to be brushed. She also loves to sleep under the covers of her current owners bed, but don't worry—she isn't a bed hog!

Squeak will make an excellent cat for a family or single person who preferably already has a pet—either a cat or a dog. Without some company, she may get lonely. But, I think she could get used to being an "only child" with some extra pampering.

Her current owner is leaving island in two weeks so Squeak needs to find her new family quickly! Please call Melissa at 234-1253 after 5pm and on weekends, or 664-2425 during the day, or email her at melissasimms56@hotmail.com. ***(Katie Busenkell)***

JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ

Lt. Gov. Timothy Villagomez is escorted by his wife Margaret and Attorney Teresa Kim while Joaquina V. Santos, far right, is seen running towards her car after a hearing at the U.S. District Court at the Horiguchi Building in Garapan yesterday afternoon. Villagomez together with Secretary of Commerce James A. Santos and his wife Joaquina V. Santos, and former CUC executive director Anthony Guerrero were named in a federal indictment, accused of committing fraud and mis-spending hundreds of thousands of dollars.

8 SAIPAN

From Page 1

The indictment, unsealed Monday morning, charges Villagomez, Commerce Secretary James Santos, his wife Joaquina Santos—who is Villagomez's sister—and former Commonwealth Utilities Corp. executive director Anthony Guerrero with conspiring to bilk the CNMI government out of thousands of dollars through business deals involving needless chemical purchases for CUC.

Villagomez and the Santos couple surrendered themselves into federal custody early Monday morning. In court, Villagomez appeared nervous as he sat waiting for attorneys to debate the conditions of his release. Villagomez and the Santos' pleaded not guilty to each of the charges against them.

After his court appearance, Villagomez raced past reporters waiting for him outside the courthouse and into a white sports utility vehicle that spirited him away along with his wife.

David Lujan, Villagomez's attorney, declined to speak about the case. Attorneys for the Santos' and Guerrero could not be reached for comment at press time.

Government witness

Guerrero has struck an agreement with federal prosecutors, pleading guilty on Friday to one count of conspiracy, and could testify in the pending trial, said First Assistant U.S. Attorney Jeffery Strand during an afternoon press conference attended by Federal Bureau of Investigation and Internal Revenue Service agents.

In an interview earlier that day, FBI agent Dana McMahon said the investigation into the alleged conspiracy required an exhaustive search of purchase orders and government records obtained with subpoenas, reaching back a full decade.

"Our conspiracy case goes back all the way to 1998," McMahon said. "Basically, we've had to go through all the documents back to then. It was a long process."

Investigators' first clue, she added, was a record of the sixth and final transaction in the chemical sales scheme. Yet McMahon was coy on how the circumstances of the transaction aroused suspicion when they were revealed in February.

The FBI plans to investigate other questions concerning CUC in the near future, she added.

"We're still looking at some other issues with CUC," McMahon said, "There are some further areas of interest for us."

Business deals

At issue in the federal indictment is a series of business deals Villagomez struck with companies controlled by the Santos' beginning in 1998, when he was CUC's executive director, to supply the utility service with thousands of gallons of Rydlyme, a cleaning and de-scaling agent. The first deal in the alleged scheme netted James Santos' ISLA Micronesia Sales more than $286,000 of CUC money over the course of several purchases from 1998 to 2000. The deal circumvented CNMI procurement regulations and violated conflict of interest laws, the indictment says.

ISLA sold more than 8,000 gallons of the chemical to CUC under the deal, federal officials note, yet CUC has since used merely 350 gallons and has either disposed of the rest or kept it in storage, like a 1,485-gallon stockpile it has on Rota.

In August, 2007, Villagomez—who Gov. Benigno Fitial designated to oversee CUC as lieutenant governor—and the Santos' initiated the same scheme yet again, according to federal authorities, by enlisting the help of Guerrero and an unidentified accomplice to secure a sole source emergency deal to pay Blue Pacific, owned by Joaquina Santos, $120,000 for Rydlyme.

The indictment says Villagomez pressured Guerrero to fast-track the deal and at one point cajoled CUC staff to "pay my sister." In the sixth and final transaction of the scheme, federal authorities say, Santos ordered more than $30,000 worth of Rydlyme a month prior to CUC's execution of the contract and the eventual sale, like the previous ones, involved a 400 percent markup over the chemical's normal cost.

Moreover, the indictment charges the four alleged conspirators with wire fraud, pointing to a wire transaction related to the deal that it says violated federal statutes. The indictment further charges them with the theft of federal funds, which CUC receives through government programs.

On bail

The Santos' and Villagomez won release on a $50,000 bond. The conditions of their release, as noted in court, require them to remain in the CNMI for the duration of the court's proceedings and bar them from discussing the case for any reason with each other, except to prepare their defense with attorneys.

During the press conference, Strand cautioned that the indictment is "merely an accusation" and urged the news media to respect the defendants' privacy. Guerrero, he added, could come under severe strain in light of his involvement and cooperation with the case.

"Obviously, in a small community like the Commonwealth, Mr. Guerrero will be subject to significant social and family pressures, as well as economic pressures related to his employment," Strand said.

Guerrero was released on a $10,000 bond after agreeing to cooperate with the investigation, according to court documents. A jury trial for the defendants is slated for Oct. 6 at 9am.

JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ

First assistant United States Attorney Jeffrey J. Strand announces the charges against Lt. Gov. Timothy Villagomez, Secretary of Commerce James A. Santos and his wife, who is also the sister of the Lt. Governor Joaquina V. Santos, and former CUC executive director Anthony Guerrero during a press conference at the Horiguchi Building in Garapan shortly after the hearing yesterday afternoon.

Rydlyme-gate: A history so far

Editor's Note: The following is a timeline of the alleged business transactions, according to the indictment papers.

1998- 2000

James Santos and Timothy Villagomez, then CUC's executive director, ink a deal for the utility service to purchase thousands of gallons of Rydlyme. The deal gains Santos' ISLA Sales more than $280,000, violates conflict of interest laws and circumvents procurement regulations, according to federal authorities. Most of the Rydlyme purchased is never used.

August 2007

Villagomez, now the lieutenant governor, and Santos enlist the help of Anthony Guerrero to win a sole source contract for an emergency purchase of Rydlyme, federal officials say. The sale is conducted by Blue Pacific, a company owned by Joaquina Santos, and garners the Santos' an estimated $120,000. Villagomez pressures Guerrero and CUC staff to fast-track the deal, which violates the same rules and laws as the previous deal, federal authorities say.

February 2008

Acting on a report from the CNMI Office of the Public Auditor, the Federal Bureau of Investigation begins examining the details of the sixth and final transaction in the alleged scheme. A federal investigation follows that results in subpoenas of CUC and local government officials and records dating back to 1998.

July 7, 2008

Villagomez returns from a conference in New York amid rumors he is under mounting pressure from federal investigators. He later tells reporters he was "advised" to return to the CNMI but declines to elaborate.

July 22, 2008

A federal grand jury hands down an indictment against Villagomez, Guerrero and the Santos', charging them with wire fraud, theft of federal funds and conspiracy charges. The indictment is then sealed.

July 23, 2008

U.S. Marshalls issue arrest warrants for James and Joaquina Santos, Villagomez and Anthony Guerrero.

Aug 8, 2008

Guerrero signs a plea deal with federal authorities, pledging cooperation with the case. He pleads guilty to one count of the indictment, conspiracy, and is released pending trial on a $10,000 bond.

Aug. 11, 2008

The indictment is unsealed. The remaining defendants are arraigned and plead not guilty. They are released on $50,000 bonds.

Oct. 6, 2008

A jury trial is slated to begin in federal court.

For some teachers, island life is a new adventure

By KRISTI EATON
kristi_eaton@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

As the new school year approaches, students aren't the only ones beginning a new journey as they enter the next grade level. Some of the teachers are also beginning a new career and a new life on island.

Because the CNMI continues to struggle to hire teachers from within the community, the Public Schools System, as well as private schools, are recruiting off island, usually from the mainland.

Jackie Van Dam, a recent graduate from an Iowa college, moved to Saipan with her husband a few weeks ago to begin a new teaching job at Saipan Community School. She is one of five teachers that moved to the island to teach at the school this year.

"My husband and I took the jobs because we have always wanted to go overseas and teach and this was just an answer to prayers. We thought it would be an adventure and a really great opportunity that we can experience together while we are still younger," she said.

Van Dam said she discovered the job through an education job Web site.

"They sent out email alerts once new jobs were posted and I saw one for the Marianas Island, which sounded really exciting," she added. "I had never heard about Saipan before. I didn't even know where it was or that it was an island or it's own territory."

As SCS increases in size, it has become harder to find teachers for the small Christian school, Bobby Winkfield, principal of Saipan Community School, said.

The school began recruiting teachers by sending out fliers, posting job notices on the Internet and notifying churches in the United States about their need, Winkfield said.

The Public Schools System uses some of the same methods in recruiting teachers from outside the island, Ramon Diaz, acting director for PSS Human Resources, said.

PSS uses the Web site teacherstoteachers.com to post job announcements, Diaz said. PSS also travels to the mainland to recruit in person.

"That's been very successful," he said.

Recruiters only travel to states that require teachers to be Praxis certified, such as Oregon, Washington, Montana and Minnesota, because that is a requirement for teachers in the CNMI, Diaz said.

During the 2006-2007 school year, PSS recruited 30 off-island teachers, the following year, 35 teachers were recruited, Diaz said. He could not give numbers for the upcoming schools year because they are still in negotiations.

With current teacher shortages across the United States, Diaz said PSS must work hard to attract teachers.

"We do have to be able to offer a competitive total compensation package," he added.

In addition to the normal salary and benefits, PSS pays for the airfare to the island, three nights in a hotel and three days of meals while the teacher gets settled on island. The benefits are for the employee and three eligible dependents, he said.

But the hardest part of the job for some might be the distance from the mainland.

Van Dam said it is difficult living so far away from friends and family in the States.

"[My husband and I] both have an amazing family and friends back home and leaving them was difficult," she said. "It's also hard not knowing anyone here really. We've met some awesome people but don't have good friends or family we can see or visit when we need to get away from school."

But Van Dam said island life is making the transition easier.

"The scenery is beautiful with the mountains, ocean and reef," she said. "I love the fact that my backyard is the ocean. The people on the island are wonderful. They are friendly and inviting and very helpful."

SURFING MARIANAS JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ
A tourist prepares his equipment for windsurfing at Micro Beach. The famous beach is always filled with kayakers, swimmers, sunbathers, and windsurfers.

Tinian Health Center's nurse is OK'd to dispense prescriptions

By KRISTI EATON
kristi_eaton@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The CNMI Board of Nurse Examiners signed an agreement Monday allowing Tinian Health Center's registered nurse to have more authority in writing and dispensing prescriptions.

The move comes as the Commonwealth Health Center searches for a new medical doctor on the island after Dr. Ronaldo Toledo resigned unexpectedly at the end of July.

Aurelia G. Long, an advanced practice registered nurse for THC, can now prescribe and dispense medicine to patients with "remote supervision" by a CHC physician. The remote supervision can be conducted by telephone, existing telemedicine facilities, or via the Internet. The agreement lasts through Aug. 31, 2009. A physician will review patient charts and prescriptions every six months.

THC is left without a medical physician in light of Toledo's resignation. It was later learned that Toledo had let his medical license lapse on July 15 without informing THC or Long.

Until the agreement was signed, Long and Terri Clawson, THC physician assistant, lacked solo prescription authority.

Long said she feels comfortable with the extra authority.

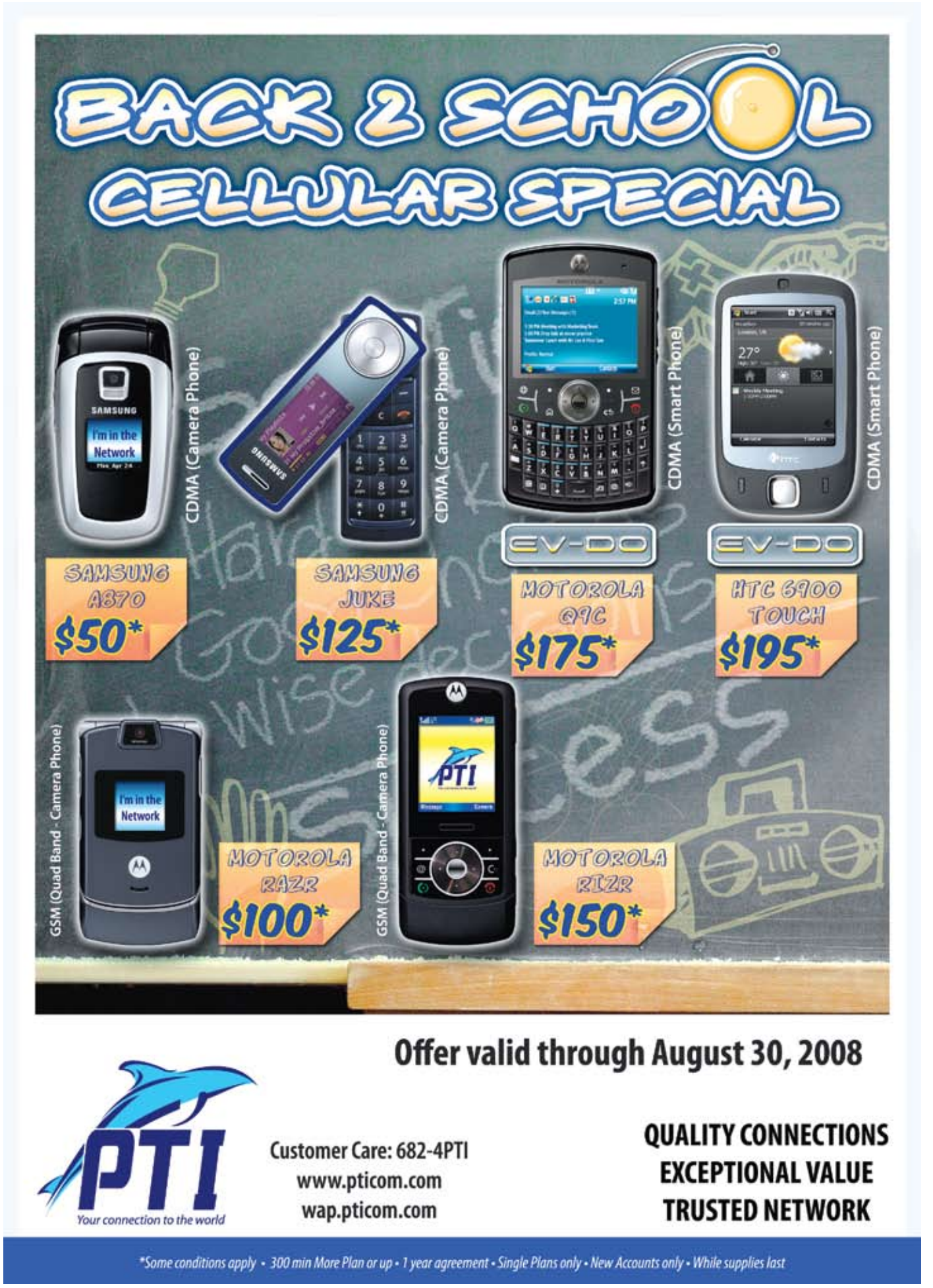
"I do understand my scope and clinical judgment," she said.

Under the agreement, Long will be able to write and dispense schedules III through V medications, such as antibiotics, Motrin or other over the counter medicines. Schedule II medications, such as vicodin and methadone, will be co-signed by a medical physician.

Long said it is important chronic patients are readily able to receive their pain medication.

"This is for some serious pain," she said. "You can't just withdrawal them."

There are currently 15 to 20 patients taking schedule II drugs, some of them war veterans, Long said.



Island Snapshots

WELCOME RALLY JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ

Members and officials of the Coalition of United Workers (CNMI) gather for a photo while holding banners during a rally to welcome a delegation of congressional staffers at the American Memorial Park late Monday afternoon.

SUPPORTERS JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ

Relatives, friends and supporters of Lt. Gov. Timothy Villagomez gather at the lobby of the U.S. District Court at the Horiguchi Building in Garapan after a hearing yesterday afternoon.

WINE RALLY

Palms Resort Saipan advertising sales representative Minako Kayagaki and event host Brad Ruszala gather for a photo with F&B staff during the Pacific Wine & Spirits, Inc.'s wine rally inside the Fresko restaurant of the Palms Resort Saipan in San Roque Thursday night.

JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ

Ken Stewart aka "The Guam Food Guy" picks up a raffle winner during the Pacific Wine & Spirits, Inc.'s wine rally inside the Fresko restaurant of the Palms Resort Saipan in San Roque Thursday night.

JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ

Pacific Wines and Spirits' Orleyne Tabucanon poses with Marianas Resort and Spa F&B staff during a wine rally inside the Fresko restaurant of the Palms Resort Saipan in San Roque.

JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ

WELCOME TO SAIPAN JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ

Hundreds of Japanese tourists arrive via Northwest Airlines inside the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport.

JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ

CHILDREN'S FUN DAY ORGANIZERS

Organizers of the first ever Children's Fun Day gather for a photo at the Kilili Pavilion in Susupe Sunday afternoon.

Children line up to get their face painted during the first ever Children's Fun Day at Kilili Pavilion in Susupe Sunday afternoon. The children were treated to food, games, puppet show and different kinds of kiddie entertainment.

JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ

NMI lawmakers take up CUC woes with feds

WASHINGTON, D.C.—Leaders of the CNMI Legislature met Monday last week with officials at the Department of the Interior's Office of Insular Affairs to address power generation problems at the Commonwealth Utilities Corp.

Senate President Pete P. Reyes, House Speaker Arnold I. Palacios, and Rep. Diego T. Benavente, chairman of the House Standing Committee on Federal and Foreign Relations, discussed CUC's predicament with acting Deputy Assistant Secretary Doug Domenech, Director Nikolao Pula, and other staff members of the Office of Insular Affairs.

Reyes

Palacios

Benavente

The legislative delegation was in Washington all week for meetings with federal agencies in an effort to resolve the acute power crisis in the CNMI. An aging power infrastructure and a sustained increase in the price of diesel fuel have resulted in daily rolling blackouts and sharply higher utility bills.

The delegation was unified in the desire to resolve the situation at home.

"We came to Washington to discuss CUC because it is the most pressing issue now facing the people of the Commonwealth," said Palacios.

Reyes agreed, adding, "There is no other project more important to the Commonwealth at this time than the rehabilitation of our power plants and the stabilization of our power supply. A successful economic recovery plan requires as its centerpiece a reliable source of power for existing businesses, new investment, and residential consumers."

Speaking with federal officials on Monday, Benavente requested immediate action, stating, "It is critical that we move forward with a specific plan to provide for a secure power supply, improve efficiency in power production, and ease the burden of skyrocketing utility bills on residents in the Commonwealth."

Reyes, Palacios, and Benavente presented a recovery strategy that includes, among other things, both the rehabilitation of existing power generation facilities and the development of new energy sources.

The delegation also suggested other possible remedial measures such as the construction of a new large-scale fuel storage facility and an increase in technical assistance from unused CIP funding.

OIA officials were receptive to the ideas presented and will be meeting further with CNMI officials in an effort to find a solution to the Commonwealth's power emergency. ***(PR)***

WELCOME RALLY JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ

Acting Coalition of United Workers (CNMI) president Rabby Syed delivers his remarks during a rally to welcome a delegation of congressional staffers at the American Memorial Park late Monday afternoon.

NMC to host free information session

Those interested in furthering their education and advancing their professional careers are encouraged to attend the Northern Marianas College's free information session which will be held tomorrow, Aug. 13, at 5:30pm – 6:30pm, in Room D-1 at the As Terlaje Campus.

Representatives from different degree and certificate programs, as well as counseling, financial aid and admissions staff, will be on hand to answer questions. Current students will also be speaking about their experiences at NMC and will be also be fielding questions.

NMC offers numerous degree and certificate programs, including a bachelor of science degree in elementary education, associate degrees in business, liberal arts, nursing, natural resource management, criminal justice, hospitality management, and more. Moreover, it offers many certificate programs in different vocational, academic, and professional areas.

The free information session is open to everyone, including graduating seniors and their parents, government and private sector employees, international students, and members of the general public who are interested in learning more about the programs at NMC. ***(NMC)***

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iShare Plan includes:
Share cell mins. fr the 3,000 Minute Plan · FREE 60 local SMS (No sharing)
Preferred rates & other conditions for 3,000 Minute Plan & iShare Plans:
Rates per SMS: 5¢ for Guam & Saipan, 5¢ for Phils., 10¢ for US, Alaska & Hawaii, 12¢ for International · Calls to continental US, Hawaii & Alaska at 5¢ /min. · Calls to the Phils. at 25¢ /min. · Guam – CNMI coverage · 20¢ /excess local minute charge · New sign-ups only · No detailed call records for Pay-As-You-Use PTT Plan · 24 month contract · Prices exclude gov't. taxes & fees · Conditions apply.
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Tinian hosts solemn peace rites

Tinian held its 6th annual Tinian Nagasaki Hiroshima Peace Ceremony on Aug. 6 amidst intermittent rain showers that forced the ceremony's movement from the Children's Peace Monument to the Kammer Beach main pavilion.

The cloudy skies above Tinian set a somber mood for the Sounding of the Sirens ceremony that took place at 9am. Roughly 60 community members attended the morning ceremony with most of the audience composed of students from Tinian High School and Koryo High School, Tinian High School's sister-school from Hiroshima.

Erica Evangelista served as the mistress of ceremonies for both the morning ceremony and the evening vigil, and conducted the ceremony in both English and Japanese for the benefit of the visiting high school students and teachers from Hiroshima.

At 9:15am, a one-minute moment of silence was observed while sirens sounded from emergency vehicles from Tinian's Department of Public Safety. A sudden downpour of rain as the sirens went off made for a poignant moment during the ceremony, underscoring the sober feelings of the occasion.

Immediately following the sounding of the sirens and moment of silence was a multi-faith prayer for peace by representatives Sister Luz from the Catholic Church, Vili A. Villan of the Seven Day Adventist, and Pastor Buddy Cunanan of Jesus is Lord.

MATTHEW BRANCH

A Hiroshima Koryo High School student shares a moment with Tinian youth at the Candlelight Peace Vigil at Kammer Beach, Tinian.

The evening Candlelight Peace Vigil was a less formal affair that started at 7:10pm at the Kammer Beach pavilion. The vigil began with participants helping to light the nearly 300 candles that decorated the main pavilion. Conducted entirely by candlelight, the vigil was intimate and filled with warmness that perfectly matched the music and poetry performances by the Tinian's youth.

The evening presentations began with a rendition of John Lennon's "Imagine" by the Tinian Children's Choir followed by a display of peace cranes by representatives of Hiroshima Koryo High School and Tinian Junior Senior High School.

The 13 students from Hiroshima Koryo High School also performed a song Japanese song called *Peace Loving People*. The evening also featured a poetry reading by Tinian High School student Alisha Shrestha who recited an original poem written for the ceremony titled *Peace*. The final performance of the evening came from local Tinian recording artists Anthony Aguon and Nikita Mendiola. The duo performed a medley of U2's *One* and Marvin Gaye's *What's Going On?*

"I think it was a nice ceremony this year. Although it was small, I think the candles and music was something special, and I hope our guests from Hiroshima enjoyed the event," said Ann Marie Hocog, one of the organizers of this year's ceremony.

"And, we would especially like to thank the many people and businesses that had donated so much to this year's events, without their help none of this would have been possible," said Hocog. ***(PR)***

Meeting for guest workers with unpaid wages

If you are a guest worker who has an administrative order issued by the CNMI Department of Labor related to unpaid wages and meet the following criteria:

- Your employer is not in business anymore or has declared bankruptcy
- You have surety bond
- You are not in trouble with the law
- Your administrative order is within six years from the date of issuance

Please attend a meeting on Aug. 12, 2008, 6:30pm at the American Memorial Park. We will try help you collect your money.

Bring a copy of your administrative order. ***(PR)***

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

Belated happy birthday to Francine Mendiola Santos, who celebrated her birthday yesterday, Aug. 11. Greetings come from all your family and friends.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

WHO notes rise of dengue in Pacific

Samoa, Tonga, Kiribati, New Caledonia among hot spots

WELLINGTON, New Zealand (RNZI/PIR)—The World Health Organization says it's seriously concerned about the increase in dengue cases in the region.

The potentially deadly dengue virus is transmitted through day biting mosquitoes.

A regional representative, Dr Kevin Palmer, says Samoa is in the midst of a dengue outbreak with the number of people continuously rising.

Samoa had confirmed six cases in the six months to June, but there have been 13 new clinical cases in July.

Dr Palmer says Kiribati has also reported more than 300 cases in the past three months, while Tonga is also experiencing a surge in the number of people affected.

In New Caledonia, about 900 people have been diagnosed with the virus since the beginning of the year.

FIRST ANNIVERSARY

Happy first wedding anniversary to Jocelyn and Kevin Kapileo. Greetings come from Vera.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Flashback

A LOOK BACK AT PAST YEARS' HEADLINES

August 12, 1999

Chamber president Deets quits

In a surprise move, Saipan Chamber of Commerce president Kerry M. Deets yesterday resigned from her post amid reports of infighting among the board of directors of the island's only business group. Deets, who was installed as Chamber head in January 1999, cited her new job with GTE Pacifica and her family as the main reasons for her decision in quitting the job.

89 asylum-seekers from China sent to US

At least 89 asylum-seekers, who were passengers of the fishing vessels intercepted by federal and local authorities, have been sent to mainland U.S. for "possible further processing," according to a court document. The 89 were among the 537 undocumented aliens from China who were held in the "tent city" on Tinian. Those detained were crewmen and passengers of five boats, which were intercepted by Coast Guard on separate occasions in April and May of this year.

Nielsen tells legislators: Follow regulations

Finance Sec. Lucy DLG Nielsen yesterday defended her department against criticisms from members of the Legislature that they are making it difficult to release funds for their travel expenses, saying they are just complying with the regulations. She claimed some of the legislators still have huge outstanding travel vouchers that they have yet to file with the Department of Finance as part of the requirements before they can draw down again from their respective accounts.

August 12, 2002

DLNR also expecting a deficit

Even as the government is projecting a budget shortfall due to the current spending levels of the departments of Public Health and Public Safety, another government agency divulged it is also anticipating a budget deficit this fiscal year. The Department of Lands and Natural Resources said it is projecting a $133,000-fiscal deficit, mainly due to holiday pay and within-grade increases on salaries of personnel.

Kumoi opposes hike in user's fee

The chairman of the Senate Committee on Resources, Economic Development and Programs has expressed opposition to the proposed increase in the user's fee, saying this will hurt not only the garment industry but up to 15 other industries in the Commonwealth. At the same time, committee chairman Sen. Ramon S. Guerrero said the bill is ill-conceived in that it penalizes the garment industry to support the CNMI's other industryÑtourism.

NMI to benefit from Rota aid

The federal aid that the Federal Emergency Management Agency will extend to Rota will benefit not only that particular island but also the entire Commonwealth. Rota Legislative Delegation Chair Sen. Ricardo S. Atalig disclosed this, saying that the federal aid would consist of three forms of assistance: public assistance, hazard mitigation grant program, and assistance classified as others.

August 12, 2003

Govt tightens fist on spending

With just 50 days more to go before the end of the fiscal year, the Babauta administration is plugging all spending loopholes to make sure that it does not go a cent beyond the mandated budget for this fiscal year, set at $217.96 million. In a directive to all Executive Branch employees, departments and agency heads, Gov. Juan N. Babauta expanded the government's cost-cutting measures by prohibiting purchases of any items unless authorized in advance by his office. It also prohibits agencies and departments from entering into any contracts without his prior approval.

Lizama retention, casino initiatives make it to November midterm polls

CNMI voters will decide on November 1 whether to retain or reject Superior Court Judge Juan T. Lizama, whose term expires on July 14, 2004. The Election Commission Board approved Friday to place on the ballot the question: "Shall Judge Juan T. Lizama be retained in office?" Voting yes would mean that Lizama will remain as Superior Court judge for another six years. He was sworn in as judge on July 17, 1998.

COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS
DEPARTMENT OF LABOR
DIVISION OF ADMINISTRATIVE HEARING

Second Floor, Afetna Square Building, San Antonio, P.O. Box 10007, Saipan MP 96950

NOTICE OF CLOSURE OR DISMISSAL
LABOR CASES

August 4, 2008, first notice
August 12, 2008, second notice

COMPLAINANTS IN THE FOLLOWING LABOR CASES:

Each of the labor cases listed below has been adjudicated or dismissed by the Administrative Hearing Office. In each case, this is a final action by the Administrative Hearing Office. All claims, including all claims for money damages, and all claims for eligibility for transfer, have been adjudicated or dismissed. Any complainant who has not been served personally or by mail with the hearing officer's order adjudicating or dismissing the case is now, as of the second date of publication of this notice, served with the order. A complainant served by means of this publication may obtain a copy of the hearing officer's order from the Administrative Hearing Office. A complainant whose case has been adjudicated or dismissed by the Administrative Hearing Office has fifteen (15) days from the second date of publication of this notice in which to appeal the order. This publication does not affect any prior service personally or otherwise on a complainant, and the time in which to appeal runs from the date of that service.

CASE #	EMPLOYEE	EMPLOYER
LC 07-230	Abrera, Rodelio S.	Auntie Mag's Food & Catering
LC 07-011	Abuel, Anacoreta R.	Kintol, Daria M.
LC 07-047	Agnapan, Natividad P.	Klewei, Nick N.
LC 07-014	Aiba, Tsuyoshi	Kumanomi dba Café de Colmar
LC 07-364	Albano, Cecilia J.	Pangelinan, Guadalupe T.
LC 07-351	Alcantara, Marietta E.	JC Tenorio Enterprises, Inc.
LC 07-206	Alejandro, Josephine C.	Javier, Jeffrey
LC 07-113	Alvarico, Hermognes L.	Palacios, Rex I.
LC 07-214	An, Eun Hee	Oak Corporation
LC 07-004	Andres, Michelle T.	Yun's Corporation
LC 07-337	Antonio, Luz A.	Kaipat, Celina C.
LC 07-077	Anuran, Janeth M.	Manglona, Dwight
LC 07-270	Araquel, Edita I.	Taman, Jacinto and Dolores
LC 07-060	Arsenal, Sonia M.	Macatangay Derma Health
LC 07-161	Azarcon, Eutemio Jr. D.	Tadeo, Wilson P.
LC 07-079	Bacus, Ligaya C.	Sablan, Ramon
LC 07-287	Barit, Felipa D.	Sam Kwang Saipan, Inc.
LC 07-153	Bastulo, Ainee C.	Sacremento, Eduardo
LC 07-201	Belen, Juan O.	Dong Rim Corporation
LC 07-036	Belza, Ione M.	Herman's Modern Bakery
LC 07-123	Benemerito, Enrico O.	Seishun Farm Saipan, Inc.
LC 07-278	Bernabe, Carlito E.	Quichocho Security Services
LC 07-304	Bhatta, Bhoj R.	G4S Security Services
LC 07-006	Bituyan, Md. Golgar H.	Calvo, Patrick M.
LC 07-105	Blanco, Eden A.	Torres, Juanita C.
LC 07-026	Borlaza, Milquides Jr.	Cabrera, Escolastica C.
LC 07-321	Brillo, Shirly T.	Camacho Investment Corp.
LC 07-281	Briones, Warlito A.	BFJ Corporation
LC 07-309	Bronoso, Cenon C.	Cabrera, Francisco M.
LC 07-203	Buena, Fedirico M.	YTS Micronesia, Inc.
LC 07-368	Bustillo, Jonas T.	Printwell, Inc.
LC 07-097	Caballero, Emily G.	Camacho, Crystal
LC 07-023	Caballero, Emily G.	Kosam, Jordan and Betty Lou
LC 07-070	Cabalza, Lucille S.	J.D.H. Corporation
LC 07-382	Cabiles, Alfredo A.	Saipan Ice & Water Company
LC 07-092	Cabrera, Xiaoqin Zhou	Jin Yang Corporation
LC 07-202	Caintoy, Raquel U.	Tomokane, Anthony S.
LC 07-120	Calacsan, Paterno R.	Cook N Sam Corporation
LC 07-063	Cao, Shi Lin	Kyung Seung (Spn), Inc.
LC 07-025	Carandang, Lilibeth C.	Blue Water Int'l Corporation
LC 07-177	Casuncad, Reymond C.	Micronesia Des. Group & Assoc.
LC 07-180	Chau, Chuong (ER)	Cao, Jingwei (EE)
LC 07-180	Chau, Chuong (ER)	Lou, Dewen (EE)
LC 07-052	Chen, Chunhui	WZ Corporation
LC 07-316	Chen, Hui Zhu	Poong In, Inc.
LC 07-227	Chen, Jing	Pangelinan, Mariano
LC 07-384	Chen, Junqing	Chen Wang Corporation
LC 07-289	Chen, Leiyong	De Mei Development Corp.
LC 07-221	Chen, Li	Poong In, Inc.
LC 07-288	Chen, Lian	De Mei Development Corp.
LC 07-148	Chen, Ying	LY & Z American Corporation
LC 07-277	Corona, Ireneo A.	Saipan Ice & Water Company
LC 07-297	Cueto, Benhur A.	JNJ Corporation
LC 07-290	Culanag, Danilo S.	Tadeo, Wilson P.
LC 07-066	Daluz, Nora U.	MR Phillips Enterprises
LC 07-151	Dang, Dezhen	LY & Z American Corporation
LC 07-052	Dang, Dezhen	WZ Corporation
LC 07-160	Davis, Rezalina L.	White House Enterprises, Inc.
LC 07-035	Daynos, Laura C.	Victory Corporation
LC 07-391	De Guzman, Noricia S.	Han's Trade Corporation
LC 07-310	Dela Cruz, Jesus E.	Develop Ideas Corporation
LC 07-046	Deleon, Lannyrose H.	White House Enterprises, Inc.
LC 07-176	Delos Reyes, Marylou S.	Jin, Mina Yue
LC 07-348	Deng, Lijun	Marianas GMT MGF, Inc.
LC 07-182	Deng, Wenhong	Winner's Corporation
LC 07-303	Dizon, Leticia	Poong In, Inc.
LC 07-326	Dizon, Raymundo V.	Hi-Five Company, Ltd.
LC 07-314	Doblas, Benedicto E.	Younis Art Studio, Inc.
LC 07-068	Dosdos, Merlyn C.	MR Phillips Enterprises
LC 07-322	Dulall, Howlader	DL Guerrero, Joaquin V.
LC 07-252	Dulnuan, Lorina T.	Erungel, Willardo
LC 07-116	Enriquez, Solita P.	Evangelista, Juan L.
LC 07-178	Esconde, Ramonito O.	Pacific Rainbow (CNMI), Inc.
LC 07-286	Espinosa, Gilbert A.	Philpan Int'l, Inc.
LC 07-031	Fabian, Dennis P.	Commercial Trading of Spn, Inc.
LC 07-193	Fan, Dongjuan	Success Corporation
LC 07-044	Fan, Hu Zai	Jin Yang Corporation
LC 07-158	Fan, Jianying	Hui Shu Corporation
LC 07-346	Fan, Xiaoli	Marianas GMT MGF, Inc.
LC 07-021	Fan, Xiuqin	Dela Cruz, Dolores B.
LC 07-126	Fan, Xuehua	Success Corporation
LC 07-259	Fang, Juanping	LY & Z American Corporation
LC 07-344	Fang, Yu	Marianas GMT MGF, Inc.
LC 07-019	Feliciano, Invictus T.	Eastern Hope Corporation
LC 07-130	Feng, Bin	Poong In, Inc.
LC 07-037	Fiel, Nely V.	Sablan, Ronald
LC 07-061	Flores, Diosdado R.	Nero, Ortizo
LC 07-196	Francisco, Maria C.D.L.	Reyes, Rebecca
LC 07-212	Fu, Chuilian	He Cheng Corporation
LC 07-189	Gabayeron, Artemia A.	Quibuyen, Rudi D.G.
LC 07-284	Gamboa, Editha B.	Han's Trade Corporation
LC 07-132	Gao, Yueqiang	Hui Long Corporation
LC 07-136	Gao, Zhanquan	Hui Long Corporation
LC 07-253	Garces, Jean L.G.	Island Essense, Inc.
LC 07-138	Gaviola, Annie M.	Golden Harvest Int'l School, Inc.
LC 07-347	Geng, Luping	Marianas GMT MGF, Inc.
LC 07-302	Germino, Virgilio A.	Mega Power Corporation
LC 07-146	Getueza, Franco E.	Chong Won Don
LC 07-011	Gonzales, Celia L.	Kintol, Daria M.
LC 07-188	Gonzales, Larry G.	Quibuyen, Rudi D.G.
LC 07-009	Gonzales, Melanie L.	Jung A Enterprises
LC 07-067	Goyena, Chery C.	MR Phillips Enterprises
LC 07-101	Gu, Jianhua	Yong Cheng Corporation
LC 07-378	Gu, Lianhua	Sam Kwang Saipan Corp.
LC 07-357	Guo, Qiongying	Sam Kwang Saipan Corp.
LC 07-005	Halim, Seikh A.	Misamis Const. Saipan, Ltd.
LC 07-340	He, Yunfei	Zhang's Corporation
LC 07-140	Hechanova, Josefa Z.	Aquino, Kaysie Q.
LC 07-108	Herrera, Luisito E.	Saltwater Hillbillies, Inc.
LC 07-362	Hu, Guojun	Pacific Lucky Corporation
LC 07-084	Hu, Wang	Jin Yang Corporation
LC 07-257	Hu, Xiaojing	LY & Z American Corporation

CASE #	EMPLOYEE	EMPLOYER
LC 07-118	Huang, Meihua	Han Soo Hee
LC 07-260	Huang, Riuang	LY & Z American Corporation
LC 07-098	Huang, Xuewei	Jin Yang Corporation
LC 07-103	Huang, Zhi Xiang	WACL Corporation
LC 07-254	Imperial, Myla G.	Island Essense, Inc.
LC 07-235	Inigo, Lina G.	Garrido, Joey T.
LC 07-265	Islam, Tufazzul	Ray's Lawn Care & Maintenance
LC 07-055	Ito, Minako	Watabe Saipan, Inc.
LC 07-349	Izar, Romeo E.	AIC Marianas, Inc.
LC 07-197	Jaraplasan, Manuel B.	Huang, Jiashen
LC 07-085	Ji, Cheng Xiang	Jin Yang Corporation
LC 07-069	Ji, Hai Xai	K & K Corporation
LC 07-052	Ji, Richeng	WZ Corporation
LC 07-263	Jiang, Bo	Yuna Corp. & Liha Sook Guzman
LC 07-190	Jiang, Shunyu	Jiang Gun Restaurant
LC 07-173	Jiao, Guangcai	TSP, Inc.
LC 07-164	Jin, Caiping	Rifu Apparel Corporation
LC 07-274	Jin, Guangxu	K.S. Chang Corporation
LC 07-171	Jin, Jing Guo	Soo Jee Market
LC 07-107	Jin, Jinshu	Apple Corporation
LC 07-375	Jin, Shunnu	Sam Kwang Saipan Corp.
LC 07-380	Jin, Shunyu	Sam Kwang Saipan Corp.
LC 07-119	Jin, Zhongcheng	Saipan Gold Beach Hotel
LC 07-088	Jing, Zhiqiang	Jin Yang Corporation
LC 07-296	Jovelo, Freddie O.	Huang, Jiashen dba Leche
LC 07-159	Kapau-an, Lorenzo Jr. G.	PGS, Inc.
LC 07-043	Kim, Sung Ki	Galaxy Company, Ltd.
LC 07-385	Ko, Jin Hang	Dr. Ko, LLC
LC 07-175	Kumar, Pradeep	Naiua Enterprises, Inc.
LC 07-298	Kwang, Han Lee	Ji Soo Corporation
LC 07-198	Lai, Lifen	Kyung Seung (Spn), Inc.
LC 07-186	Lariza, Lorenzo V.	MKK Corporation
LC 07-157	Laurtes, M. Eliza V.D.P.	YCO Corporation
LC 07-150	Li, Fayan	LY & Z American Corporation
LC 07-117	Li, Feng Ye	Cabrera, Edward C.
LC 07-360	Li, Guoxing	Pacific Jang's Corporation
LC 07-328	Li, Hai Bo	LY & Z American Corporation
LC 07-165	Li, Ying	Jaguar Company, Ltd.
LC 07-133	Li, Jian	Hui Long Corporation
LC 07-135	Li, Jian Po	Hui Long Corporation
LC 07-052	Li, Jiazhu	WZ Corporation
LC 07-030	Li, Jihao	Jin Yang Corporation
LC 07-353	Li, Lianyu	Jung Uk Corporation
LC 07-170	Li, Xiang Dong	Dela Rosa, Juliana D.
LC 07-372	Li, Xiao Yan	Sam Kwang Saipan Corp.
LC 07-388	Li, Xiuzhi	Ben Tang Game Room
LC 07-192	Li, Zongyuan	Dela Rosa, Elinor
LC 07-311	Lian, Guoping	United Int'l Corporation
LC 07-109	Lim, Romeo Y.	Loste, Eleonor A.
LC 07-001	Lin, Qingxin	United Int'l Corporation
LC 07-261	Lin, Yanbing	LY & Z American Corporation
LC 07-219	Lin, Zhang	WZ Corporation
LC 07-218	Liu, Changhai	Neo Fashion, Inc.
LC 07-134	Liu, Guanghui	Hui Long Corporation
LC 07-102	Liu, Guihua	LCKG Company, Ltd.
LC 07-124	Liu, Renqing	Neo Fashion, Inc.
LC 07-090	Liu, Xingguo	Jin Yang Corporation
LC 07-022	Liu, Yafang	Chang Cheng Int'l Corporation
LC 07-033	Liu, Yujun	Marianas GMT MGF, Inc.
LC 07-371	Liwanag, Leonora S.	Santos, Lorylinda C.
LC 07-059	Long, Xiahong	K & K Corporation
LC 07-256	Long, Xiaohong	LY & Z American Corporation
LC 07-083	Lou, Zhongming	Jin Yang Corporation
LC 07-374	Lu, Dai Fang	Sam Kwang Saipan Corp.
LC 07-295	Lu, Kaifeng	Success Corporation
LC 07-149	Lu, Xiaomei	LY & Z American Corporation
LC 07-356	Lui, Damei	Sam Kwang Saipan Corp.
LC 07-204	Luo, Xiaomin	Saipan Triple Star Recycling
LC 07-355	Macam, Onofre B.	Agbanlog, Ignacio C. Jr.
LC 07-331	Macoto, Adonis T.	Asia Pacific Hotels
LC 07-245	Mahayont, Suvakit	Tano Group, Inc.
LC 07-179	Mai, Dietang	Soo Jee Market
LC 07-329	Manalang, Nelia P.	Delos Reyes, Michelle H.
LC 07-291	Manalo, Ruby A.	Miller, Ellis dba EWGE
LC 07-215	Mangahis, Jehan A.	ILC Corporation
LC 07-172	Manzanilla, Aler L.	Mount Carmel School, Inc.
LC 07-048	Marasigan, Oliver A.	Yun's Corporation
LC 07-167	Martinez, Rosmari N.	Tadeo, Wilson P.
LC 07-051	Marucot, Angelina P.	Nogis, Vivian
LC 07-226	Miah, Babul	Alliance Paper Products, Inc.
LC 07-013	Mirano, Earl E.C.	Erensia, Inc.
LC 07-389	Monsanto, Christopher	Seman, Julie dba Oram Security
LC 07-249	Munzon, Reynaldo B.	Sae Woun Corporation
LC 07-370	Niduaza, Eraro S.	Seven Twelve 7.12 Enterprises
LC 07-220	Ocenar, Edwin J.	Pangelinan, Catherine dba Bolis R US
LC 07-248	Octavo, Efren I.	Sae Woun Corporation
LC 07-027	Opena, Rowel M.	Fejeran, Beatriz Q.
LC 07-162	Orencio, Benedict S.	Pacific Auto Glass Co., Inc.
LC 07-112	Paclipan, Melissa	Cook N Sam Corporation
LC 07-268	Pagtalunan, Lucita A.	Rife, Amanda M.
LC 07-361	Pan, Jinhua	J.S. Corporation
LC 07-324	Pan, Ping	Sam Kwang Saipan, Inc.
LC 07-200	Paracha, Celestino G.	United Int'l Corporation
LC 07-074	Park, Mu Chuel	Arriola, Joseph A.
LC 07-366	Park, Yang Soo	Yoo Sung Embroidery
LC 07-299	Parocha, Eduardo S.	Sablan Betelnut Distribution
LC 07-345	Pei, Honglian	Marianas GMT MGF, Inc.
LC 07-050	Peng, Hongmei	Rifu Apparel Corporation
LC 07-111	Peng, Siqin	Mirage Saipan, Ltd.
LC 07-325	Pesigan, Andrea T.	Bateman, Bruce A.
LC 07-110	Piao, Ji Yan	Soo Hee Han dba Star Poker
LC 07-350	Pido, Erlinda M.	Orilly, Marilyn P.
LC 07-071	Ping, Dai	Jin Yang Corporation
LC 07-064	Pioquinto, Macarthur F.	Candy Carousel
LC 07-081	Pitpit, Albert S.	Quibuyen, Rudi D.G.
LC 07-262	Qi, Meiying	Kyung Seung (Spn), Inc.
LC 07-052	Qian, Guohua	WZ Corporation
LC 07-147	Qiu, Guangman	Zhen Zui Brother Corp.
LC 07-211	Quan, Xuezhe	MKK Corporation
LC 07-129	Quesada, Roxanne L.	Sky International Corp.
LC 07-099	Qui, Jianyuan	Jin Yang Corporation
LC 07-017	Quiambao, Angelito J.	Dela Rosa, Elinor

CASE #	EMPLOYEE	EMPLOYER
LC 07-307	Quipid, Romeo M.	Misamis Const. Saipan, Ltd.
LC 07-336	Ramos, Teresita S.	American Joint Part Corp.
LC 07-145	Raut, Raja R.	Cube Corporation
LC 07-010	Relucio, Redentor	Harmony Int'l, Inc.
LC 07-273	Ren, Qiao Fang	LY & Z American Corporation
LC 07-065	Rivera, Regis J.	MR Phillips Enterprises
LC 07-121	Rojas, Reynaldo D.C.	Cook N Sam Corporation
LC 07-053	Romare, Susan V.	Jin Ho Corp. dba Papago Laundry
LC 07-122	Romero, Rebecca D.	Phan, Flordeliza B.
LC 07-381	Romew, Antonietta A.	Saipan Ice & Water Company
LC 07-184	Rosete, Rebecca S.	Deleon Guerrero, Jesus V.
LC 07-185	Rosete, Viraillio C.	Deleon Guerrero, Jesus V.
LC 07-163	Rosimo, Edmund A.	Mallari, Joven A.
LC 07-244	Rubis, Imelda R.	Greenstone International
LC 07-029	Sagana, Bonifacio	G4S Security Services
LC 07-240	Salamat, Joel C.	M.R. Phillips Enterprises
LC 07-115	Saludes, Meriam E.	Evangelista, Juan L.
LC 07-187	Saluta, Noel S.	Quibuyen, Rudi D.G.
LC 07-229	Salvador, Reynaldo L.	Auntie Mag's Food & Catering
LC 07-285	Sanchez, Aurora D.C.	Rifu Apparel Corporation
LC 07-054	Sario, Melvin M.	Falig, Mariano
LC 07-216	Satumira, Resurecion	Camacho, Joseph and Martha
LC 07-225	Sayson, Hedelita R.	Jimin Enterprises
LC 07-127	Sayson, Kimberly L.R.	Jimin Enterprises
LC 07-247	Serrano, Maricris L.	Cepeda, Isidro T.
LC 07-039	Sha, Mei Ying	Success Corporation
LC 07-032	Shang, Jijiang	Pacific Lucky Corporation
LC 07-255	Shen, Chonglan	LY & Z American Corporation
LC 07-096	Shen, Haixia	Jin Yang Corporation
LC 07-095	Sheng, Wei Jian	Jin Yang Corporation
LC 07-183	Shi, Desheng	Cepeda, Maria B.
LC 07-379	Shi, Xi	Sam Kwang Saipan Corp.
LC 07-367	Shimizu, Tomoko	EIC Mariana, Inc.
LC 07-199	Shu, Huiyan	Concorde Garment MFG
LC 07-125	Shuang, Ruijiao	Winner's Corporation
LC 07-141	Sison, Romeo V.	Ngirarois, Skey
LC 07-104	Solena, Lilian P.	Pacific Amusement
LC 07-155	Su, Rulong	Sam Kwang Saipan, Inc.
LC 07-343	Sun, Xiaoyan	Marianas GMT MGF, Inc.
LC 07-308	Tambot, Fernando S.	Juang Sig Corporation
LC 07-166	Tang, Haiyun	K & K Corporation
LC 07-320	Tanghal, Cilda B.	Guzman, Linlingay E.
LC 07-087	Tian, Gui Hua	Jin Yang Corporation
LC 07-210	Valdez, Milo E.	Santos, Lorylinda C.
LC 07-062	Vargas, Henry B.	Vargas, Eugenio I.
LC 07-301	Victorio, Andrea T.	Mega Power Corporation
LC 07-154	Vila, Guido B.	Angel Wings Corp.
LC 07-089	Vinoya, Rolando N.	New Oxympia Ent., Inc.
LC 07-093	Wan, Yanlin	Jin Yang Corporation
LC 07-224	Wang, Fengming	Pacific Lucky Corporation
LC 07-313	Wang, Haihua	American Sai Green
LC 07-377	Wang, Haixia	Sam Kwang Saipan Corp.
LC 07-318	Wang, Hong	Phoenix Corporation
LC 07-246	Wang, Hong Yu	J.S. Corporation
LC 07-086	Wang, Hong Yu	Jin Yang Corporation
LC 07-106	Wang, Honghua	United Int'l Corporation
LC 07-387	Wang, Jihong	L & S Apparel Company
LC 07-390	Wang, Jiping	L & S Apparel Company
LC 07-317	Wang, Lanlan	G and R Farms
LC 07-075	Wang, Lixin	Mirage Saipan, Ltd.
LC 07-028	Wang, Qi	Yuuhei Corporation
LC 07-082	Wang, Xiaoping	Jin Yang Corporation
LC 07-234	Wei, Leping	Neo Fashion, Inc.
LC 07-276	Wei, Yan	Majestic Restaurant
LC 07-052	Wu, Kaibin	WZ Corporation
LC 07-217	Wu, Yan	Neo Fashion, Inc.
LC 07-332	Wu, Yuyan	LY & Z American Corporation
LC 07-294	Xia, Naijun	Wah Li, Inc.
LC 07-042	Xiao, Shaihong	Oh Yeah Fashion
LC 07-100	Xiao, Yanguang	Pangelinan, Mariano
LC 07-242	Xie, Yunjin	Yuuhei Corporation
LC 07-233	Xing, Xiao Yu	Shun Yi American Corp.
LC 07-040	Xu, Hong Hong	Wah Li, Inc.
LC 07-354	Xu, Huili	Sam Kwang Saipan Corp.
LC 07-359	Xu, Shunying	Sam Kwang Saipan Corp.
LC 07-232	Xu, Xiang Ling	Poong In, Inc.
LC 07-319	Xu, Xiang Ling	US CNMI Development Corp.
LC 07-056	Xu, Yan	BQF Services Corporation
LC 07-181	Xue, Boun	Success Corporation
LC 07-131	Yan, Wei	Dela Rosa, Elinor
LC 07-205	Yan, Yingyue	Top Fashion Corporation
LC 07-231	Yang, Ling	L & S Apparel Company
LC 07-040	Yang, Xiao Huan	Wah Li, Inc.
LC 07-080	Yao, Dongmei	Jin Yang Corporation
LC 07-258	Yao, Min	LY & Z American Corporation
LC 07-191	Ye, Jiamin	Top Fashion Corporation
LC 07-323	Yu, Haijun	Dragon Corporation
LC 07-002	Yu, Hong Juan	United Int'l Corporation
LC 07-358	Yu, Weihong	Sam Kwang Saipan Corp.
LC 07-003	Yuan, Fengling	Hui Shu Corporation
LC 07-250	Yumul, Adelfa M.	Sae Woun Corporation
LC 07-339	Zhang, Chunyan	Poong In, Inc.
LC 07-142	Zhang, Ganqing	American Kai Hua Corp.
LC 07-243	Zhang, Hu Cheng	La Paloma Company, Ltd.
LC 07-306	Zhang, Jiamei	Mirage Saipan, Ltd.
LC 07-041	Zhang, Jiqing	Poong In, Inc.
LC 07-194	Zhang, Naiqin	Jin Ji Corporation
LC 07-152	Zhang, Yinxia	LY & Z American Corporation
LC 07-279	Zhao, Chun Xiu	Neo Fashion, Inc.
LC 07-228	Zhao, Huimin	Kyung Seung (Spn), Inc.
LC 07-015	Zhao, Humin	Top Fashion Corporation
LC 07-045	Zhong, Xina	Poong In, Inc.
LC 07-091	Zhou, Haijuan	Jin Yang Corporation
LC 07-312	Zhou, Lifen	Poong In, Inc.
LC 07-072	Zhu, Guiqin	Jin Yang Corporation
LC 07-275	Zhu, Haimei	Yong Cheng Corporation
LC 07-334	Zhu, Qingzhen	Soleman dba Barracks
LC 07-376	Zhu, Wen Mei	Sam Kwang Saipan Corp.
LC 07-073	Zhu, Xiaqin	Jin Yang Corporation
LC 07-373	Zhu, Yinchuan	Sam Kwang Saipan Corp.
LC 07-040	Zhu, Yong Xian	Wah Li, Inc.
LC 07-078	Zong, Liping	Jin Yang Corporation

Opinion

Hafa Adai!
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EDITORIAL

Stopping Russia

The outbreak of fighting between Russia and the former Soviet republic of Georgia was sudden but not surprising. Conflict has been brewing between Moscow and its tiny, pro-Western neighbor for months. The flashpoints are two breakaway Georgian provinces, Abkhazia and South Ossetia — the latter being the scene of the latest fighting. The skirmishing and shelling around Georgian villages that prompted Georgian President Mikhail Saakashvili to launch an offensive against the South Ossetian capital, Tskhinvali, may or may not have been a deliberate Russian provocation, to which Russia's tank and air assault was the inevitable follow-up.

Russian military probes, always denied by Moscow, have been frequent in recent years. But certainly the deeper source of tension between the two countries is Russia's insistence on maintaining hegemony in the Caucasus. Georgia's democratically elected government has accepted U.S. military and economic aid, supported the mission in Iraq and pursued NATO membership. Moscow will not tolerate such independence — even by a relatively poor country of just 4.6 million people.

At its summit in Bucharest, Romania, in April, NATO offered Georgia eventual membership. This was not the more concrete promise that Georgia and the Bush administration had wanted. But Tbilisi and Washington settled for less in deference to European NATO members who wanted to avoid inflaming Russia. It didn't work, because Moscow responded by increasing its ties to Abkhazia and South Ossetia, including by beefing up the "peacekeeping" forces it maintains in both regions under the settlement that concluded Moscow-backed secessionist wars in the early 1990s. Even before these latest maneuvers, Russia had issued passports to most inhabitants of the two breakaway regions, which is why it claims to be defending its own people now.

It's doubtful, though not unthinkable, that Russia plans to conquer all of Georgia. But its objectives are no less cynical for that. Simply by keeping the country in a constant state of territorial division and conflict, it hopes to show NATO that Georgia is too unstable for membership — thus giving Georgia no choice but to submit to Moscow's "influence." Probably Russia intends to administer a quick military "punishment" (as Russian President Dmitry Medvedev described Moscow's war aim) to Saakashvili, and then restore some version of the unstable status quo ante.

This is a grave challenge to the United States and Europe. Ideally, the U.N. Security Council would step in, authorizing a genuine peacekeeping force to replace the Russian one that has turned into a de facto occupation of Abkhazia and South Ossetia. But a Russian veto rules that out. Thus, the United States and its NATO allies must together impose a price on Russia if it does not promptly change course.

The principles at stake, including sovereignty and territorial integrity, apply well beyond the Caucasus. To abandon Georgia and its fragile democratic Rose Revolution would send a terrible signal to other former Soviet and Warsaw Pact republics that to Moscow's dismay have achieved or are working toward democracy and fully independent foreign policies. The West has made that sort of mistake before and must not do so again.

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NOT ALLOWED TO SPEAK AT THE CONVENTION? SOMEONE AS PRESIDENTIAL AS YOU?
NATIONAL ENQUIRER
EDWARDS
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Personalities

Wetback labor?

I've noticed that Mr. Delano from Camacho, California, has found his typewriter while rooting through the attic. It seems we are to be blessed with some of his 14-page diatribes once again during this election season. He seems to appear as if by magic when the charming candidacy signs sprout by the roadside. I'm wondering if it is the campaign fertilizer (BS) that gets him going. I can't help but be impressed with a guy that doesn't live here and has no stake in the place caring so much and having so much profound advice to offer. Will he swim over from California to visit us?

Now where is Holani Smith when we need him?

■ ■ ■ ■

Bored with education

Now that Board of Education has unanimously chosen Rita Sablan as the new Commissioner, will Ambrose Bennett, the competing candidate for the spot, sue the board to keep the entertainment factor going? Ms. Sablan has agreed to drop her suit alleging injustice in choosing Mr. Borja as the last leader. That suit has kept headlines going for the last couple of years so it seems the least Mr. Bennett could do to help keep the reading populace amused is to hie on down to the nearest attorney and sue, claiming discrimination.

All kidding aside (and I was kidding above) the parents of the CNMI have high hopes and high expectations of competent action from the new Commissioner. School systems throughout America have funding woes. They always have and they always will. Some manage to win through to victory and provide excellent educations to their students even in the face of insufficient funding. Other systems seem content to complain that the money is not enough. It is a key function of leadership in any school system to see that educational opportunities are there for students whether the coffers are full or not. It can be done and it is the responsibility of leadership to see that it is done.

Ms. Sablan has opted to come out of retirement and take on a very tough job. While we applaud her spirit and energy, parents will also be watching closely to see the results she brings to the system. Welcome aboard, now get to it please.

■ ■ ■ ■

As the world turns

Tina Sablan has recently accused Cinta Kaipat of being biased against foreign workers and implies she should not hold a position of responsibility at the Department of Labor. Could Cinta turn that around and accuse Tina of being biased *toward* foreign workers and favoring them over her own local constituents in Precinct 1? Should Tina Sablan be recalled and lose her seat in the House of Representatives? Should Cinta Kaipat be fired from the Department of Labor? If personal bias is bad for the goose, is it also bad for the gander?

SOUR GRAPES

BRUCE A. BATEMAN
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Bruce A. Bateman writes Sour Grapes when the moon is full and the mood strikes. Stay tuned for each exciting episode. Yes, he is opinionated. bbateman@pticom.com

Both these women feel strongly about particular causes and how the people of the Commonwealth are affected by labor and immigration laws, whether enacted from within or imposed from outside. These two former allies now find themselves at loggerheads as they each try to champion a different group of working people. Does it have to boil down to local residents against foreign contract workers with their respective adherents jousting for a win? No, it does not. Accommodation is possible. I think they are both seeking justice, not bias.

Many believe that the current Labor law tries to balance the forces of worker abuse with the forces of the workers themselves abusing or "playing" the system. Others think that the law goes too far, or not far enough depending on their viewpoint or their own self-interest. Treading the fine line between maximizing opportunities for citizen employment while providing a foreign workforce large enough to sustain a country's economy is a task faced by Countries all over the world. The CNMI is not alone in trying to balance the needs and aspirations of these two groups. Across Europe, the Middle East and back in the USA the quest for fairness and firmness goes on. While it may not be possible to make everyone happy it probably is possible to reach reasonable compromises. One thing is for sure. Having people who are here and really care about what is going on make those regulations a lot better than having some bureaucrat's assistant from Washington do it without knowing what is really happening here.

■ ■ ■ ■

Judging the traffic

Several folks have offered up their opinions on how traffic fares at controlled intersections when the power is out. Recently a couple of letters complained of unsafe conditions and possible fatal consequences. I find those views to be held by very few individuals I've talked to and I would question the driving skills of those complainers.

My own experience is just the opposite. First, traffic seems to

See PERSONALITIES on next page

EDITORIAL POLICY The *Saipan Tribune* welcomes comments on any article, column, editorial, or topic that may be of interest to the public. Letters to the editor must include the name, address, and contact number of the contributor. Letters that are critical in nature should focus on issues, not personalities. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, CIC Centre, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

Edwards' affair his most costly political risk

By GARY D. ROBERTSON
ASSOCIATED PRESS WRITER

Backed by his friendly Southern drawl, the practiced charm of a courtroom warrior and a smile bright enough to blind the camera's eye, John Edwards never lacked the confidence to take the big risk.

He risked in the courtroom, making millions as a trial lawyer by winning cases for underdog clients. He gambled as a political rookie, successfully challenging a GOP Senate incumbent in his very first run for public office. He took a chance while a member of that most exclusive club, leaving after a single term to run for the White House.

And so why not one more risk?

Why not run again for president, this time while carrying on an extramarital affair that could easily sink his campaign and—should he win the Democratic nomination—his party's hopes of winning the Oval Office?

"The first time he kissed her, he should have been thinking, 'Goodbye to my political career,'" said Jon Krosnick, a professor of political science and psychology at Stanford University. But candidates such as Edwards "feel invulnerable, that they feel it has gone on all of the time, that I'm not going to be scrutinized at this level ... and it will stay private."

It took nearly a year for the tabloid accusations, which Edwards was quick to dismiss and his supporters were quick to ignore, for the former North Carolina senator to finally admit Friday to having an affair in 2006 with a woman who produced a handful of videos for his campaign.

In doing so, Edwards admitted he was seduced by his own success and the lavish attention and praise that came with his meteoric rise from his roots in Raleigh as a successful but relatively unknown personal injury attorney.

Just two years after his Senate victory, he was on Al Gore's short list for vice president. After losing his own bid for the Democratic nomination a few years later, he bounced back by winning a spot as John Kerry's running mate on the party's ticket. Running again last year, he entered the race as one of the three favorites on the Democratic side.

"In the course of several campaigns, I started to believe that I was special and became increasingly egocentric and narcissistic," Edwards said in a confessional statement released Friday. "If you want to beat me up—feel free. You cannot beat me up more than I have already beaten up myself."

That is unlikely.

Many of those closest to Edwards did not hide their disappointment and anger after the 55-year-old husband and father admitted to both having an affair with filmmaker Rielle Hunter and lying about it for months. Former campaign manager David Bonior said he was one of the thousands of friends and supporters that Edwards betrayed, and he shuddered when thinking about what might have happened had Edwards beaten Hillary Rodham Clinton and Barack Obama in the party's primaries.

"You can't lie in politics and expect to have people's confidence," he said.

On Saturday, the issues surrounding the affair became more complicated when Hunter said through her attorney that she will not participate in DNA testing to establish the paternity of her 5-month-old daughter. That decision by Hunter means that the issue of who the father is remains an open question. Frances Quinn Hunter, was born on Feb. 27 this year, and no father's name is given on the birth certificate filed in California. A former Edwards campaign staff member professes to be the father. On Friday night, Edwards said he would be willing to take a paternity test to put the issue to rest.

When leaving the race in January, Edwards extracted a pledge from his rivals to make ending poverty as central to their campaign as it was to his own. It was seen then as a sign that Edwards didn't plan to leave public life behind, and indeed, a few months later his timely endorsement helped voters forget Obama's ugly 41-point loss to Clinton in the West Virginia primary.

Before rumors about his affair began spreading in Democratic circles, many expected Edwards to speak at this month's Democratic National Convention as a potential candidate for a cabinet post in an Obama administration. That's all gone now, said Dennis Wicker, a Democrat who was North Carolina's lieutenant governor from 1993 to 2001.

"His credibility is shot. His political career is over," Wicker said. "I don't know what causes one to cross a bright line like this one, but it's probably going to haunt him for the rest of his life ... it's colossal."

Edwards has always had a compelling personal story: the son of a mill worker in rural South Carolina who became a millionaire and later spurred to public service in part by the accidental death of his 16-year-old son. But for all his popularity, especially within the Democratic Party's progressive movement, Edwards doesn't have a strong base in North Carolina on which to build a recovery.

He only beat GOP Sen. Lauch Faircloth by three percentage points in 1998, and then didn't serve long enough in the Senate to build a legacy of constituent service that powered his controversial contemporary—Sen. Jesse Helms—to five terms in office. Even though he was the Democratic vice presidential nominee in 2004, North Carolina voted for President Bush.

And he is hardly a traditional populist, bedeviled during his campaign by tales of $400 haircuts and reminders of his 102-acre estate—complete with basketball gym and 28,000-square-foot mansion—outside of Chapel Hill.

Any return to public life would also bring charges of hypocrisy: In 2007, a year after Edwards says he ended the affair with Hunter, he told CBS News that it's a "fair evaluation for America to engage in, to look at what kind of human beings each of us are, and what kind of president we'd make."

Finally, the affair is sure to be seen as a particularly painful blow to his wife, Elizabeth, who continued to campaign during his second run for the White House after she was diagnosed with an incurable recurrence of cancer. Few would argue that his wife is as beloved, if not more, than Edwards himself.

"I liked him before, but I don't see any integrity," said Gina Mohammid Nasir, 43, a yoga teacher from Wilmington. "The image of him and his wife was very important ... the image of that union."

If there is any hope for an Edwards redemption, it will come from those touched by yet another of his risks: to base a pair of national political campaigns on a fight against poverty and the struggles of low-income Americans.

In Greene County, Edwards founded a program in 2005 that sent 190 high school graduates to college for free. Those who benefited said Friday that his personal infidelities, no matter how distasteful, could not undo such good works.

"I have great things to say about John Edwards. He opened that window up for our rural community," said Sara Johnson, whose son Tyler earned one of the scholarships. "It gave something to our community, and our students and their families."

Letters to the Editor

Critical days

8/05/08 Day 1 : Our leaders cannot sleep on this one for our people are sleepless.

8/06/08 Day 2 : Ignorance, neglect and mismanagement are the reasons why our people continue to suffer in these rolling blackouts. Only 1 Engine is operating at our Power Plant 1 producing 5 megawatts plus 13.5 at Power Plant 4 = 18.5 total megawatts supplying the entire island and they expect us to hold on for 30 - 45 days until Aggreko power reserves arrive. Then there was total "darkness."

8/07/08 Day 3: Water contamination from Msgr. Guerrero Road to Dahon Drive. CUC claimed mechanical malfunction and water insufficiently treated. All lies! If there is no power to turn on pumps, how is CUC going to treat our water system?

8/08/08 Day 4: More power outages! Water in Msgr. Guerrero Road to Dahon Drive still contaminated.

8/09/08 Day 5: More—and longer—power outages, lasting 2-4 hours plus. Water in Msgr. Guerrero Road to Dahon Drive still contaminated.

8/10/08 Day 6: More power outages and more serious problems! Three engines went down last night due to serious mechanical problems and CUC director Tony Muna said engines will hold till next month. Power Plant 1 is now operating with one engine only.

Taotao Tano says now way, we ain't going to make it. This is why Taotao Tano aggressively demands that the Executive Branch and Legislature source from the Department of Defense and have Aggreko power reserve containers airlifted to the CNMI now for we are in a state of emergency, a real one!

Today's *Tribune* reported that contaminated water is corrected. Guess again, we have one engine running, with Power plant 4 assisting with 13.5 megawatts = total 18 megawatts for the entire power grid of the Commonwealth.

People of the Commonwealth can expect more contaminated water, coastal waters, and five-hour power outages in the coming days. It has begun and the Executive Branch and Legislative Branch is ignoring this serious threat to the people of the Commonwealth.

The governor is now endangering the entire people of the Commonwealth. The general well being of the people are at stake in terms of public safety, public health and public services.

Governor, what happened to all the sole-sourced contracting? Thousands and thousands of taxpayers dollars and no repairs. You are concentrating too much on the GAO analysis but we have a critical situation in our hands. Where is your priority? Where is the better times? Where is the 90 percent by June 2008 power generation? Intentionally and deliberately driving our power plants down to oppress a community into privatization is a crime, governor.

Gregorio Cruz
President, Taotao Tano CNMI Inc.

Ludicrous comparison

The story that was printed in Monday's paper referring a new Maryland *county* regulation and supposedly commented on by Cinta Kaipat *does not* support the "quotes" or the comparisons made by Ms. Kaipat. This was nothing more than an attempt by Ms. Kaipat to "spin" the Maryland situation into her own version of something "good" for the NMI. It is not. Please utilize the link below to go directly to that article and read it for yourself. I suspect that no one else has.

Please notice that the regulation as passed pertains only to *one county* in Maryland, not the whole state and certainly nothing nationally. It also notes that Maryland State law has *some* general protections for houseworkers (this regulation is called "The Nanny Law" for a reason) and has had such for "centuries" *and* that federal law also protects their wages (federal minimum) *and* workers compensation rights. The article makes no mention whatsoever of the CNMI. For Ms. Kaipat to infer such or to make comparisons to the NMI's "law" is ludicrous.

Please go ahead and send this to those in the Legislature who have already asked Labor for an explanation of it's policies. Ms. Kaipat's comments are *not* borne out by this article.

http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2008/07/21/AR2008072102814.html

Dr. Thomas Arkle Jr.
Tinian

PERSONALITIES

From Page 10

flow more smoothly with few or no cars backed up when the power is off and the traffic signals are not functioning. Not only does traffic flow more quickly and smoothly, there seems to be a great deal more consideration shown to other drivers than when the power is on and a machine is controlling traffic as opposed to when human drivers are in charge. Since traffic actually flows better and the situation is safer with the stoplights off I would suggest that we leave them off all the time and save the electricity.

I would recommend taking a driver's education course for the nervous nellies, the worriers and those not comfortable with their own decision making skills while behind the wheel. If you are not comfortable, you are probably not competent either.

■ ■ ■ ■

14 hour blackouts

Well, it finally happened. On Saturday, Aug. 9, we had more hours without power than with it in our village. By our count we had 10 hours of electric power and 14 hours without.

While this may be good for our power bill as it promotes conservation (okay, forces conservation) it is doubtful that the benefits outweigh the penalties. Sweating one's way through another sweltering evening while trying to sleep or having any gainful work be constantly interrupted when the power goes out for the sixth or seventh time makes it seem a doubtful advantage. It sort of reminds me of being dragged through a sand burr patch in order to get rid of the weeds by making them stick to your skin and clothes. There are probably more pleasant ways of getting the job done.

Happily, Sunday came and went without a single outage. Someone may have been asleep at the "OFF" switch all day. As I pen this, there have been two more outages causing a couple of expletives to escape my lips and a delay in getting this and other projects done. You?

Awhile back, one of the local vocal bloggers posed the question, "When will the power go off for 24 hours straight for the first time?" The answers ranged from immediately to next year sometime while the consensus seemed to think it would occur sometime during 2008. We are not there yet, but we are not far off either. We seem to be on the downhill slide, and gaining speed.

I'm glad I have a magnesium fuel cell to generate a little electricity.

■ ■ ■ ■

Quote of the week: Be not too hasty to trust or admire the teachers of morality; they discourse like angels but they live like men.

—Samuel Johnson, lexicographer
(1709-1784)

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

The Weather

5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Partly sunny with scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms. Southeast winds 10 to 15 mph.	Mostly sunny with isolated showers. Southeast winds 10 to 15 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲86° ▼78°	▲87° ▼77°	▲87° ▼77°	▲88° ▼76°	▲87° ▼77°

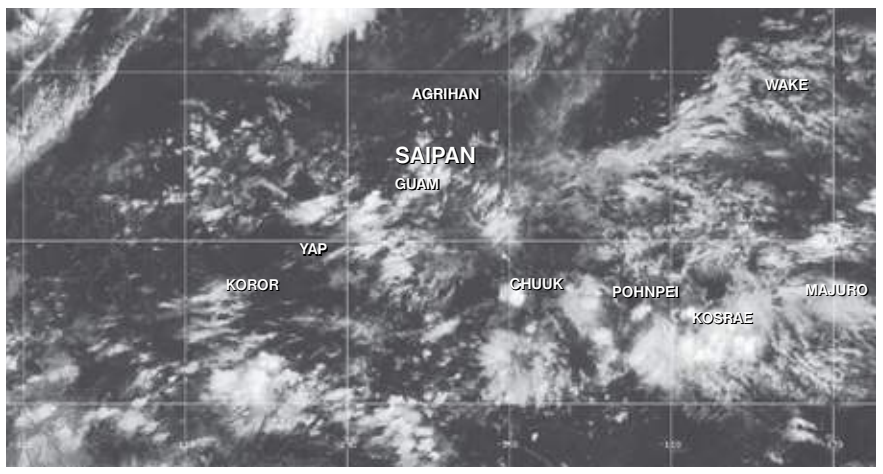
Micronesia

Guam and Rota	Thunderstorms	▲86	▼77
Palau	Thundershowers	▲85	▼78
Yap	Mostly Cloudy	▲86	▼77
Chuuk	Thunderstorms	▲88	▼78
Pohnpei	Mostly Cloudy	▲87	▼73
Kosrae	Thunderstorms	▲88	▼77
Majuro	Thunderstorms	▲84	▼75

Around The Globe

Auckland	Thunderstorms	▲57	▼49
Beijing	Showers	▲86	▼72
Hong Kong	Thundershowers	▲88	▼79
Honolulu	Showers	▲84	▼76
London	Rain	▲73	▼55
Los Angeles	Sunny	▲81	▼64
Manila	Mostly Cloudy	▲87	▼78
Melbourne	Mostly Cloudy	▲53	▼41
Miami	Thundershowers	▲90	▼78
New York	Partly Sunny	▲85	▼68
Osaka	Cloudy	▲87	▼74
Paris	Cloudy	▲69	▼52
Pusan	Thundershowers	▲87	▼77
Rome	Mostly Sunny	▲86	▼65
Salem	Mostly Sunny	▲84	▼56
San Francisco	Cloudy	▲74	▼56
Seoul	Thunderstorms	▲89	▼77
Tokyo	Mostly Cloudy	▲85	▼75
Washington, DC	Mostly Sunny	▲87	▼67

Yesterday's Satellite Image



PICTURE TIME: 1:45PM, MONDAY, AUGUST 11, 2008
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

Low-level convergence associated with a low pressure system centered near 25N138E is interacting with upper-level divergence to create numerous showers and isolated thunderstorms over and southwest of Iwo To or north of a line from 24N142E to 20N137E to 24N133E. Converging winds at the lower levels are producing scattered showers over Minamitori Shima or north of a line from 22N151E to 24N160E. Favorable upper-level dynamics are enhancing the formation of widely scattered showers north of Koror between 11N and 17N from 130E to 136E. A surface trough reaches northward from 7N149E to 17N145E. Scattered showers and a few thunderstorms associated with the trough are found over Saipan, Tinian, Rota, Guam and southwestward to just east of Yap within 200 miles of a line from 14N148E to 10N139E. Similar conditions are also seen near Chuuk between 6N and 8N from 150E to 156E. An upper-level low is centered west of Wake Island near 20N161E. Divergence south of the low is causing widely scattered showers to form southwest of Wake Island within 100 miles of a line from 19N164E to 13N157E. Trade-wind convergence is triggering scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms from south of Majuro across Kosrae to near the equator or south of a line from 6N173E to 7N166E to 4N148E. Identical weather are also occurring south of Koror or south of a line from 2N140E to 4N132E and over Kwajalein within 60 miles of a line from 8N167E to 14N176E.

Tides

Saipan Harbor

2:34AM Today	High Tide:	1.6 Feet
10:44AM Today	Low Tide:	0.0 Feet
6:31PM Today	High Tide:	1.6 Feet
11:06PM Today	Low Tide:	1.4 Feet

Sunrise/Sunset

Today	6:02AM	6:42 PM
Wednesday	6:02AM	6:42 PM
Thursday	6:02AM	6:41 PM
Friday	6:02AM	6:40 PM
Saturday	6:03AM	6:40 PM

Moonrise/Moonset

Today	3:11PM	1:37AM
Wednesday	4:01PM	2:29AM
Thursday	4:49AM	3:23 PM
Friday	5:33AM	4:17 PM
Saturday	6:14AM	5:10 PM

GET YOUR PICTURES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS PUBLISHED—FOR FREE

The *Saipan Tribune* accepts for FREE publication the following:

PICTURES

- ISLAND SNAPSHOTS
  Birthdays, baptisms, christenings, family gatherings, reunions, club activities, and other community-related events.
- BIRTHDAY GREETINGS
  A way for families and friends to greet their loved ones, accompanied by a picture of the person celebrating his/her birthday.
- BUSINESS
  Corporate donations, volunteer work, promotions, granting of awards, team-building exercises, meetings and other activities by members of the business community.
- SAMU'T SARI
  Pictures from the islands' Filipino community, primarily focusing on Filipino activities, gatherings, get-togethers, volunteer work, etc.
- TRAVELOGUE
  Pictures of off-island travels. Contributors may submit up to 10 pictures for consideration.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- COMMUNITY BRIEFS
  Announcements of upcoming activities of organizations, community clubs, government agencies, and private companies.
- CAMPUS BULLETIN
  Announcements of upcoming activities in public and private schools, as well as calendar of activities. May include PTSA meetings, enrollment procedures.

REQUIREMENTS

For pictures:

- Photos should be original and not copyrighted. Contributors must have the right to allow the *Saipan Tribune* to publish the pictures.
- Digital pictures should be high-resolution (minimum of 800kb).
- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and phone number.
- Photos must have been taken in the last two months.
- For birthday greetings, must be submitted no later than 12 noon of the previous day to make it to next day's edition.

For announcements:

- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and a phone number.
- Must be submitted no later than 12 noon to make it to next day's edition.

HOW TO SUBMIT

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- Fax: (670) 235-3740
- Mail: PMB 34, P.O. Box 10001, Saipan, CNMI 96950
- Drop off: 2nd Floor, CIC Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan
  To check if contributions are received, call (670) 235-6397, 235-2440, 235-8747

POLICY

- The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to accept or reject a contribution for publication; the right to edit all contributions, the date of publication, size of the picture, and page placement; and the right to publish contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats.
- The *Saipan Tribune* will decide how often community announcements are going to be published.
- For Travelogue, the *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to choose which pictures to publish.

NMI CRIME STOPPERS

Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:

- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any PTI cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.com

NEWS DESK For news tips, corrections and requests for news coverage, call (670) 235-NEWS (6397), 235-2440, fax 235,3740. E-mail: editor@saipantribune.com. Website:www.saipantribune.com.

CUSTOMER SERVICE For inquiries, purchase of back issues and complaints, call (670) 235-8747, 235-2440, fax 235-3740.

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ADVERTISING For inquiries contact (670) 235-2769. E-mail: sales@saipantribune.com

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF JULY 18, 2008

DEPARTURES

Saipan-Rota

CO 9313	8:30am	9:05am	3,4,7

Saipan-Guam

CO9317	4:00am	4:50am	Daily
CO9597	8:30am	9:20am	1,2,5,6
CO9313	8:30am	10:00am	3,4,7 via Rota
CO9601	12:30pm	1:20pm	Daily
CO9603	3:30pm	4:20pm	Daily
CO9605	6:30pm	7:20pm	Daily
CO9599	9:30pm	10:20pm	Daily

Saipan-Narita

NW 099	5:00am	7:40am	Daily
NW 078	8:55am	2:00pm	Daily
NW 075	4:45pm	7:25pm	Daily

Saipan-Osaka

NW 083	4:20pm	7:05pm	Daily

Saipan-Nagoya

NW 078	8:55am	11:35am	Daily

Saipan-Seoul

OZ 604	2:20am	6:00am	1
OZ 604	2:50am	6:30am	2,3,4,5,6,7
OZ 606	3:30pm	7:00pm	2,4,6,7

Saipan-Busan

OZ 608	3:50am	7:20am	1,4,5,7

Guam-Manila

CO 891	6:00am	10:30am	3 via Yap and Koror
CO 893	6:30am	8:05am	6
CO 893	8:25am	10:00am	2,7
CO 893	5:50pm	9:10pm	5 via Koror
CO 933	7:00pm	8:40pm	Daily
PR 111	6:00am	7:45am	1,2,4,6,7

Saipan-Guanzhou

CZ 3008	5:00am	8:00am	2,6

Guam-Hongkong

CO 909	6:40pm	9:25pm	1,5

Guam-Rota

CO 9598	10:15am	10:45am	1,2,6

ARRIVALS

Rota-Saipan

CO 9598	11:10am	11:45am	1,2,6

Guam-Saipan

CO 9316	2:30am	3:20am	Daily
CO9596	7:00am	7:50am	Daily
CO9598	10:15am	11:45am	1,2,6 via Rota
CO9600	10:45am	11:35am	3,4,5,7
CO9602	2:00pm	2:50pm	Daily
CO9604	5:00pm	5:50pm	Daily
CO9606	8:00pm	8:50pm	Daily

Narita-Saipan

NW 076	10:15am	2:55pm	Daily
NW 077	6:25pm	1:30am+1	Daily
NW 100	8:45pm	1:25am+1	Daily

Osaka-Saipan

NW 084	10:30am	3:05pm	Daily

Nagoya-Saipan

NW 077	9:00pm	1:30am+1	Daily

Seoul-Saipan

OZ 605	9:00am	2:30pm	2,4,6,7
OZ 603	7:40pm	1:10am+1	7
OZ 603	8:10pm	1:40am+1	1,2,3,4,5,6

Busan-Saipan

OZ 607	9:30pm	2:50am+1	3,4,6,7

Manila-Guam

CO 894	11:20am	4:55pm	2,7
CO 894	7:45pm	1:20am+1	6
CO 892	9:45pm	6:30am+1	3 via Koror and Yap
CO 892	10:10pm	5:30am+1	5 via Koror
CO 934	10:55pm	4:30am+1	Daily
PR 110	10:20pm	4:00am+1	1,3,5,6,7

Guanzhou-Saipan

CZ 3007	8:00pm	4:00am+1	1,5

Hongkong-Guam

CO 910	10:35pm	5:15am+1	1,5

Rota-Guam

CO 9313	9:30am	10:00am	3,4,7

Editor's Note: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); CO: Continental; PR: Philippine Airlines; CZ: China Southern; CA: Air China; NW: Northwest; JO: Japan Airlines; OZ: Asiana; MU: China Eastern ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)

FREEDOM AIR FLIGHT SCHEDULE

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
Guam-Rota			
FRE 100	7:00am	7:30am	Daily
Rota-Saipan			
FRE 100	7:50am	8:20am	Daily
Saipan-Rota			
FRE 200	9:00am	9:30am	Daily
Rota-Guam			
FRE 200	9:50am	10:15am	Daily
Guam-Rota			
FRE 300	4:00pm	4:30pm	Daily
Rota-Saipan			
FRE 300	4:50pm	5:25pm	Daily
Saipan-Rota			
FRE 400	6:00pm	6:30pm	Daily
Rota-Guam			
FRE 400	6:45pm	7:15pm	Daily
Saipan-Tinian			
FRE 101	6:45am	6:55am	Daily
FRE 103	7:30am	7:40am	Daily
FRE 105	8:00am	8:10am	Daily
FRE 107	8:40am	8:50am	Daily
FRE 109*	9:10am	9:20am	Daily
FRE 111*	10:45am	10:55am	Daily

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
FRE 113	11:40am	11:50am	Daily
FRE 115	1:00pm	1:10pm	Daily
FRE 117	2:30pm	2:40pm	Daily
FRE 119	4:00pm	4:10pm	Daily
FRE 121	4:40pm	4:50pm	Daily
FRE 123 *	5:40pm	5:50pm	Daily
FRE 125 *	6:00pm	6:10pm	Daily
Tinian-Saipan w/ connecting flights to Rota or Guam**			
FRE 102	7:05am	7:15am	Daily
FRE 104	7:50am	8:00am	Daily
FRE 106**	8:20am	8:30am	Daily
FRE 108**	9:00am	9:10am	Daily
FRE 110	10:00am	10:10am	Daily
FRE 112	11:05am	11:15am	Daily
FRE 114	12:00pm	12:10pm	Daily
FRE 116	1:30pm	1:40pm	Daily
FRE 118	2:50pm	3:00pm	Daily
FRE 120**	4:20pm	4:30pm	Daily
FRE 122**	5:00pm	5:10pm	Daily
FRE 124	6:05pm	6:15pm	Daily
FRE 126	6:20pm	6:30pm	Daily

Business

Airports brace for fewer flights, passengers

FORT WORTH, Texas (AP)—From his office overlooking the runways of one of the nation's busiest airports, Dallas-Fort Worth International Airport Chief Executive Jeffrey Fegan sees the slowdown coming this fall.

Airlines are cutting flights under the pressure of rising fuel costs, and that means fewer passengers and less money from parking and food concessions at DFW. For the first time in its 34-year history, the airport is freezing its budget and rethinking future expansion plans.

"We couldn't do that even after 9-11," Fegan says.

With the airline industry in a nosedive, airports are hitting turbulence: After years of growth, they are delaying capital projects, freezing hiring, and considering increases in everything from landing fees to parking. Concessionaires are hurting, and many expect to close.

The problems are greatest at secondary airports that are losing a bigger share of their flights and lack international service to shore up weak domestic traffic. Airports in Cincinnati, Cleveland, Houston, Honolulu, Las Vegas, Oakland, Calif., Columbus, Ohio, and elsewhere are expected to lose more than 10 percent of their scheduled service later this year as airlines eliminate flights.

AP

Passengers exit Terminal D at the Dallas-Fort Worth International Airport, Sunday, Aug. 10, 2008, in Grapevine, Texas.

Oakland, which is losing service from American and Continental Airlines Inc., is canceling a terminal project. Columbus also lost service when hometown carrier Skybus Airlines shut down in April after finding it could not keep offering $10 flights when jet fuel was $3 a gallon.

In San Luis Obispo, Calif., Delta Air Lines Inc. is pulling out after just one year, ending service to Salt Lake City. And American Eagle will depart, dropping its five daily flights to Los Angeles and closing a maintenance base that has been around longer than Eagle.

"American was an absolute shock," said airport director Klaasje Nairne. "They were always the hometown airline. They were in the downtown parades. They invested in the community."

Eagle's flights out of San Luis Obispo were running nearly 90 percent full. Still, the airline, a unit of AMR Corp. and feeder carrier for American Airlines, told Nairne it was losing money on the service.

The airport planned to spend $60 million on a new terminal and parking garage. Now both are in limbo, Nairne said, although she expects county supervisors will approve a scaled-down terminal.

"We have a number of businesses that depend on good air service," said David Garth, president of the San Luis Obispo chamber of commerce. "It's going to be much harder for us to convince a high-tech company that they should come here. It hurts."

Lousy economy threatens states' sales tax holidays

ATLANTA (AP)—Thousands of shoppers have been flocking to malls in more than a dozen states for back-to-school sales tax holidays, buying millions of dollars worth of clothes and school supplies - and depriving states of much-needed revenue.

The tax holidays offer a financial relief valve to families grappling with high gas and food prices, and are a welcome tradition among retailers. But some lawmakers, economists—and even some shoppers—are questioning why states are suspending sales taxes amid a slumping economy. Several states have called off the event entirely.

Vanessa Lee of Atlanta snagged six pairs of sneakers and a few dresses for $115 during Georgia's tax holiday at the start of this month. But the 42-year-old mother of three daughters in elementary school said she would rather have paid the taxes and seen the money go toward education.

"We could do away with the holiday," Lee said. "I would hate to see our teachers and classrooms lose out on money because the state doesn't have enough revenue." Sixteen states and the District of Columbia hold tax holidays, usually one weekend a year in which clothing, classroom supplies and energy-efficient appliances are exempt from sales tax.

"I understand why legislators want to give people a break - because the economy is down and people are hurting and can't afford the things they want to buy," said Kim Rueben, public finance economist for the nonpartisan Tax Policy Center. "But they aren't taking into account what that revenue could later buy for the states."

Legislators in some states are heeding such advice and may do away with the holidays amid increasing pressure to spend state dollars on bolstering infrastructure or improving schools.

BUSINESS BRIEFS

Communication outage affects FAA's Memphis region

MEMPHIS, Tenn. (AP)—Communications between an air traffic control center in Memphis and an unknown number of airplanes flying through its territory were disrupted on Saturday, the Federal Aviation Administration said. The outage began about 3:30 p.m. CDT when a car in Memphis struck a utility pole and severed a fiber-optic cable, FAA spokeswoman Kathleen Bergen said, adding air safety was not compromised. Connections to about a dozen radio frequencies and data transmissions from radar towers were temporarily disrupted at the FAA's Memphis Center, which directs planes passing through a 250-mile radius from Memphis.

Investors eye oil, dollar, retail sales this week

NEW YORK (AP)—The dollar's rebound and oil's tumble breathed some serious optimism into Wall Street last week. But no one knows for sure yet whether the two trends are truly antidotes for what's been ailing the stock market. This week, investors will be focusing again on the U.S. currency and the energy markets, but also on retail industry reports to gauge consumer spending. Consumers would certainly benefit from lower food and fuel costs, but they also still face falling home prices, huge debt loads and an uncertain job market. If it appears that they are struggling severely, the recent decline in energy prices might not be enough to sustain a stock market rally.

Verizon, 2 unions agree on new 3-year contact

NEW YORK (AP)—Verizon Communications Inc. and two unions representing 65,000 workers who had threatened to strike within hours agreed Sunday on a new three-year contract that provides 10.5 percent wage increases and changes in retirement benefits. The pact, which must be ratified by union members, was hailed as a "breakthrough agreement in many ways" by Communications Workers of America President Larry Cohen. It also extends union recognition to 600 former MCI technicians who had sought it since joining Verizon two years ago, the union said. Verizon said another 900 temporary employees would be regularized.

Paulson: Bush right on Wall Street 'hangover' quip

WASHINGTON (AP)—Treasury Secretary Henry Paulson, a former investment firm executive, says "absolutely there's a lot of truth" to President Bush's comment that Wall Street "got drunk and now it's got a hangover," in understanding the current economic climate. Paulson also is taking a wait-and-see approach on a possible second round of economic aid, an idea that congressional Democrats are pushing to a vote. The $168 billion program of tax rebate checks that Bush signed into law in February was the right size to help the struggling economy this year, Paulson said. He wants to see how it ends up helping the economy in the July through September period.

Employers boost 401(k)s to meet workers' demand

CHICAGO(AP)—Corporate America may have turned its back on traditional pensions but it appears to be embracing 401(k)s more than ever.

While retirement savings remain largely up to employees, companies are spending more to strengthen their plans through features that boost savings such as automatic enrollment, advice and more investment options. Some also are increasing or initiating matching contributions.

Many executives say it's a matter of meeting employee demand and makes good business sense too.

The trend of companies beefing up and expanding their 401(k) programs was underscored in a poll of senior finance executives from large companies nationwide, released Monday by the Charles Schwab Corp.

The survey respondents were not disclosed but evidence of 401(k) upgrades abounds.

Ariba Inc., a Sunnyvale, Calif.-based company that produces accounting software, has made a half-dozen improvements to its 401(k) plan since 2006. It began matching employee contributions up to 6 percent, made enrollment automatic and added a Roth option and target-date funds.

Iraq to revive oil deal with China

BAGHDAD (AP)—Iraq and China are set to revive a $1.2 billion oil deal that was canceled after the 2003 U.S.-led invasion, the Iraq's oil ministry said Sunday.

An initial agreement with China is expected to be signed at the end of August to develop the billion-barrel Ahdab oil field south of Baghdad, the ministry said in a statement.

"Iraq and China are keen to show their cooperation by finalizing an agreement on developing the Ahdab oil field," it said. The announcement came after a meeting between Iraqi Oil Minister Hussain al-Shahristani and China's ambassador to Baghdad.

No further details were released, but if the deal is signed it will be the first Saddam Hussein-era oil deal to be honored by the new Iraqi regime.

In 1997, Saddam's government signed an agreement with the state-owned China National Petroleum Corp., despite United Nations sanctions that barred direct dealings with Iraq's oil industry.

The two countries restarted talks in October 2006.

The field is located near Wasit province, about 100 miles southeast of Baghdad, and could produce an estimated 115,000 barrels a day.

Nation

Cease-work order for companies linked to bus crash

SHERMAN, Texas (AP)—Companies linked to a bus that crashed in Texas and killed 17 people pose an "imminent hazard" and must cease commercial operations, federal officials said Sunday, shortly after authorities took another bus out of service in Missouri because it failed an inspection.

Inspectors found the other bus operating in Carthage, Mo., said National Transportation Safety Board spokeswoman Debbie Hersman. It was registered to Iguala BusMex Inc., the unlicensed company that also owned the bus in the Texas crash.

The Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration issued its cease-operations order to Iguala BusMex and Angel Tours Inc., of which Angel De La Torre is owner and president. A second order issued to him finds that his "activities in connection with motor carrier operations pose an 'imminent hazard' to the public."

Angel Tours' voicemail system was full Sunday and not accepting new messages.

The bus in the Texas crash mashed into a guardrail and skidded off a highway early Friday at Sherman near the Oklahoma border, killing 12 people at the scene and five others who died at hospitals.

The passengers, most of them from three Vietnamese Catholic congregations in Houston, were traveling to Missouri for an annual religious festival.

Authorities have also released the driving record of the bus driver, 52-year-old Barrett Wayne Broussard. Since 2001, he has been cited by police three times - once for driving while intoxicated and twice for speeding.

His license was suspended from for nearly two months in 2001 as a result of the DWI conviction in Harris County, Hersman said. His speeding violations came in 2007 and 2004. Broussard also failed roadside inspections twice in the past year, both times resulting in his vehicle being taken out of service for driver logbook violations.

ACROSS THE NATION

Court favors couple in Ohio 'caged kids' case

NORWALK, Ohio (AP)—An Ohio appeals court has ruled against a new trial on additional charges for a couple convicted of abusing some of their adopted children and forcing them to sleep in cages. Huron County prosecutor Russ Leffler had argued that a judge should not have dismissed falsification and perjury charges that were filed against Michael and Sharen Gravelle. But on Friday the appeals court in Toledo agreed with the lower court judge and upheld his dismissal of the charges. The Gravelles' attorney, Kenneth Myers, says it means one less potential hurdle to overcome as they appeal their child abuse and endangering convictions.

1 dead after rig goes off Md. Bay Bridge

ANNAPOLIS, Md. (AP)—Police in Maryland say one person has died after a tractor-trailer plunged into the water off the eastbound span of the Bay Bridge. Police spokesman Jonathan Green says a body was recovered and two other people were injured and rushed to hospitals after a three-vehicle accident Sunday on the Route 50 Bay Bridge. The other vehicles in the accident remained on the bridge. Green says he doesn't know yet what caused the crash.

Authorities: 3 dead in midair plane crash in Wyo.

ROCK SPRINGS, Wyo. (AP)—Two single-engine planes collided in midair Sunday over a remote area a few miles from an airport in southwestern Wyoming, killing all three people aboard, authorities said. Local officials received 911 calls of an "explosion in the sky" shortly after noon, said Detective Dick Blust, a spokesman for the Sweetwater County Sheriff's Department. Scorched debris was scattered over 5 acres northwest of the airport. One of the planes was a Cirrus SR22 that took off from Polson, Mont., with two people aboard, said Ian Gregor, a spokesman for the Federal Aviation Administration. It was headed to the Rock Springs airport and was communicating with controllers. The other plane was a Cessna 172 with only the pilot aboard, he said.

Calif. lawmakers weigh chemical ban in baby items

SACRAMENTO, Calif. (AP)—Responding to growing consumer anxiety, California lawmakers are considering enacting what could be the first statewide restrictions on a chemical found in plastic baby bottles and infant formula cans The bill would require that all products or food containers designed for children 3 years and younger contain only trace amounts of the chemical, bisphenol A. The National Toxicology Program, a partnership of federal health agencies, said in a recent draft report that there is "some concern" that the chemical can cause changes in behavior and the brain, and that it may reduce survival and birth weight in fetuses. The conclusion was based on animal studies.

4 killed in boating accident on New Orleans river

NEW ORLEANS (AP)—Divers in New Orleans are looking for a man reporting missing after two boats collided, killing at least four people. State Wildlife and Fisheries spokesman Lt. Dennis Bueche says a 20-foot motorboat collided with a 30-foot cabin cruiser Saturday on the Blind River. Each boat had six people on board. Bueche says the pilot of the small motorboat and three passengers died. One other passenger was in critical condition and the sixth person on board was missing. Two people on the cabin cruiser were injured but their injuries were not considered life-threatening. Bueche told The Times-Picayune that divers were concentrating on finding the missing person Sunday and did not yet know the cause of the accident.

Small town to honor Solzhenitsyn's life in Vermont

CAVENDISH, Vt. (AP)—The southern Vermont town of Cavendish is planning a memorial service for famed Russian writer and one-time resident Aleksandr Solzhenitsyn. The Nobel Prize-winning author had settled in Cavendish when he sought refuge in the West and was looking for a place whose forests and harsh winters reminded him of his homeland. He wound up spending 18 years in Cavendish before returning to Russia. The former exile who had exposed the horrors of Soviet slave labor camps died Aug. 3 and was buried with honor in Moscow. The town of some 1,500 people will honor him with a memorial service on Aug. 17.

Officials work to ID remains from chopper crash

REDDING, Calif. (AP)—Authorities worked Sunday to identify badly burned remains collected from the site of a helicopter crash in the Northern California wilderness as crews continued the painstaking effort to recover bodies from the wreckage.

A day earlier, helicopters carrying flag-draped stretchers that bore some of the remains were greeted by an honor guard of firefighters at a nearby airstrip.

Accompanied by a fire engine escort, the stretchers were taken to the Shasta County coroner's office in Redding. Authorities there would probably have to rely on DNA analysis and dental records to identify the bodies, U.S. Forest Service spokesman Tom Kroll said.

Nine people were killed in the crash.

The recovery of the remains was initially expected to be completed Sunday, but the delicate operation at the rugged crash site was moving slowly, officials said.

"It's taking quite a bit of work to extract them," said Forest Service spokeswoman Cynthia Sage.

The helicopter was ferrying 10 firefighters, two pilots and a U.S. Forest Service employee back to base camp Tuesday after crews battled a fire about 215 miles northwest of Sacramento.

The Sikorsky S-61N helicopter had just been refueled when it lifted off from a remote clearing, struck a tree and plummeted into a hillside, according to National Transportation Safety Board officials. The chopper then erupted into flames.

Texas 7 member volunteers for execution this week

LIVINGSTON, Texas (AP)—Michael Rodriguez remembers the exhilaration of newfound freedom when he hid in the back of a stolen truck as he and six of his buddy convicts staged one of Texas' most notorious prison breaks.

Then he recalls seeing his photo on national TV and grasping the reality that their Hollywood-style plan to rob a Nevada casino had gone terribly awry. He and his fellow fugitives were being hunted everywhere as the killers of a police officer, Aubrey Hawkins, at a store they robbed outside Dallas. This week, Rodriguez is set to become the first of the six surviving members of the infamous "Texas 7"—all of them now on death row—to go to the death chamber.

"I'm glad we got caught, so no one else would get hurt," Rodriguez said, discussing with a reporter for the first time his involvement in the crime spree eight years ago.

Iconic stone arch collapses in southern Utah park

ARCHES NATIONAL PARK, Utah (AP)—One of the largest and most photographed arches in Arches National Park has collapsed.

Paul Henderson, the park's chief of interpretation, said Wall Arch collapsed sometime late Monday or early Tuesday.

The arch is along Devils Garden Trail, one of the most popular in the park. For years, the arch has been a favorite stopping point for photographers.

Henderson said the arch was claimed by forces that will eventually destroy others in the park: gravity and erosion.

"They all let go after a while," he said Friday.

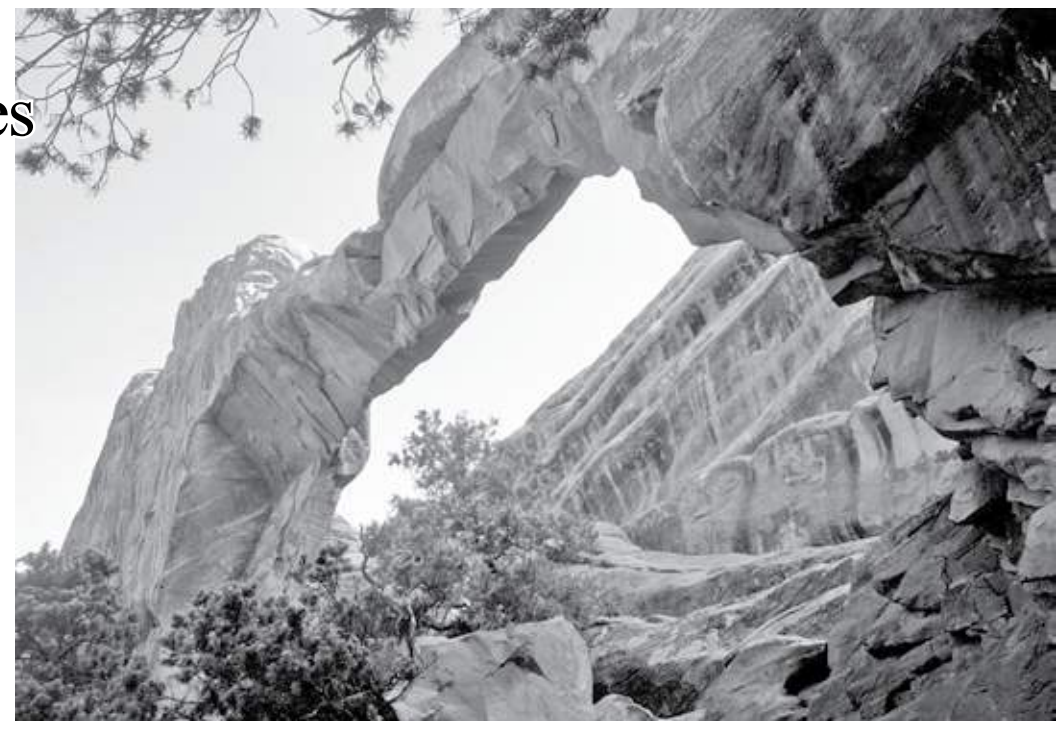
He said it's the first collapse of a major arch in the park since nearby Landscape Arch fell in 1991. No one has reported seeing it fall.

Like others in the park, Wall Arch was formed by entrada sandstone that was whittled down over time into its distinctive and photogenic formation.

The arch, first reported and named in 1948, was more than 33 feet tall and 71 feet across. It ranked 12th in size among the park's estimated 2,000 arches.

Rock has continued to fall from the remaining arms of the arch forcing the closure of a portion of the trail.

Officials from the National Park Service and the Utah Geological Survey visited the site Thursday, noting stress fractures in the remaining formation. The trail won't be opened until the debris is cleared away and it's safe for visitors, Henderson said.



AP

This undated image provided by the National Parks Service shows the Wall Arch prior to its collapse Monday Aug, 4, 2008. Other photo, provided by the National Parks Service and taken Tuesday Aug. 5, 2008, shows the collapsed Wall Arch.

Asia

City in China's west locks down after bombings

Filipino Muslims vote as troops battle rebels in southern region

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—Filipino Muslims voted in regional elections Monday amid tensions across the southern Philippines as troops battled hundreds of Islamic guerrillas who defied an ultimatum to withdraw from Christian villages in one province.

Government troops unleashed artillery fire and airstrikes Sunday on Moro Islamic Liberation Front guerrillas in North Cotabato province's farming villages of Aleosan and Pikit, which the rebels occupied last month despite a 2003 cease-fire, officials said.

The army said at least six soldiers were wounded, and the government's disaster agency reported about 130,000 people have been displaced.

The government had given the estimated 800-1,000 guerrillas until Friday morning to vacate the villages. But instead of withdrawing, the rebels spread into other areas and are now in about two dozen North Cotabato villages, Gov. Jesus Sacdalan said.

The rebels were ordered by their leaders to pull back after discussions between MILF and Philippine officials on Saturday, but they later complained that their withdrawal was hampered by government troops and armed villagers.

Rebel spokesman Eid Kabalu said pro-military militias shot and wounded one rebel Saturday, prompting others to delay their withdrawal. Kabalu said a key rebel commander, Ameril Umbra Kato, told him in a meeting Sunday that his forces were willing to withdraw if there was a government assurance they would not be attacked.

The fighting in the predominantly Christian agricultural province of more than 1 million people on the main southern island of Mindanao did not directly affect Monday's election for a governor, vice governor and a regional assembly intype:italic; the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao.

An ethnic Ainu performs in a concert of the Indigenous Peoples Summit in Sapporo, northern Japan, Friday, July 4, 2008.

AP

Ainu rise up from the margins of Japanese society

SAPPORO, Japan (AP)—For someone who grew up ashamed of her ethnic identity, they are powerful words.

"You are beautiful just as you are. Don't be afraid," Mina Sakai sings to a young, enthusiastic crowd in the language of the Ainu, the indigenous people of northern Japan.

Sakai, 25, belongs to a group of young Ainu at the forefront of a revival of ethnic pride. Rebelling against a history of institutionalized discrimination, they want greater political recognition and the rescue of a culture that has been nearly wiped out by government assimilation policies and social pressure to conform.

Sakai is a leader of the Ainu Rebels, a group of more than a dozen Ainu in their 20s and 30s who sing and dance to prerecorded music, celebrating their ethnicity in unusual fashion by mixing traditional dress, dance and language with hip-hop and rap. Call it Ainu fusion.

In one number, several young women—dressed in typical Ainu blue and purple robes and headbands with bold, geometric patterns—danced in a circle while young men brandished bows and arrows, all to a throbbing techno beat that filled the small concert hall at a recent music festival in Sapporo, the capital of Japan's northern island of Hokkaido.

KUQA, China (AP)-Soldiers with machine guns guarded the sidewalks and police yelled at residents who tried to leave their homes Sunday, hours after officers battled bomb-tossing assailants in the second daring attack in a week in China's restive Muslim territory.

The attackers were able to launch a series of pre-dawn bombings in the rugged Xinjiang region, far from the Beijing Olympics, despite tightened security for the games.

The violence, which police say killed 10 assailants and one security guard, also came just days after a militant Islamic group linked to al-Qaida issued a new warning it would strike during the Olympics.

No group has claimed responsibility for Sunday's attack in Kuqa county, and police have not released any evidence that a terrorist organization was involved. But tensions in Xinjiang have been simmering for decades between the Muslim minority Uighur people and the Han Chinese who are about 90 percent of the nation's population.

Many Uighurs yearn for independence for Xinjiang, a sprawling region rich in minerals and oil. Critics say the millions of Han Chinese who have settled here in recent years are gradually squeezing the Turkic people out of their homeland.

But many Chinese believe the Uighurs (pronounced WEE-gers) are backward and ungrateful for the economic development the Chinese have brought to the poor region, which borders eight Central Asian nations.

Sunday's series of bombings apparently targeted places dominated by Chinese, including a police station, government buildings, a bank and a shopping center in Kuqa—a base for oil and natural gas projects in the surrounding desert and mountains.

One blast blew the metal security door off the Three Eagle Shoe City. Several display cases were pushed over, and the floor was littered with bits of glass, light bulbs and shoes.

"I have no idea what their motive was," said the store's owner, a pudgy, middle-aged Chinese man with a crew cut. "I opened this store about a year ago. Business has been OK. Now I don't know how I'm going to afford to fix it up," said the man, who declined to give his name because of the sensitivity of the attack.

AP

A shop owner inspects a shoe store after an explosion blasted away the entrance in Kuqa, western China's Xinjiang province, Sunday, Aug. 10, 2008.

China: Stabbing of ex-Olympian's father 'isolated'

BEIJING (AP)—Police investigating the stabbing death of the father of a former U.S. Olympian said Sunday the suspect was distraught over family problems. Chinese authorities unsettled by the attack during the Beijing Olympics tightened security at tourist spots around the city.

■ ■ ■ ■

BEJING (AP)—A spokesman for the U.S. Olympics Committee says the condition of the woman who was attacked on the opening weekend of the Olympics has improved. Darryl Seibel told The Associated Press on Monday that Barbara Bachman's condition has been upgraded from critical to stable. Mrs. Bachman was with her husband, Todd Bachman, when they were attacked by a Chinese man at an ancient monument in Beijing on Saturday.

Bachman, the father of former Olympian Elisabeth Bachman, was killed. His wife and a Chinese tour guide were also stabbed. The assailant then threw himself from the ancient monument, committing suicide.

■ ■ ■ ■

Wang Wei, vice president of the Beijing Olympic organizing committee, said Sunday that security in and around Olympic venues was already sufficient but would be increased at scenic spots around the city.

He said Chinese investigators and U.S. Embassy officials believe Saturday's attack was "an isolated incident" and suggested such random acts are difficult to prevent. There was no indication the assailant knew his victims had any connection to the games, according to Olympic and Chinese authorities.

"Beijing is a safe city, but unfortunately we are not immune to violent acts," Wang told reporters.

Todd and Barbara Bachman of Lakeville, Minn. - parents of 2004 volleyball Olympian Elisabeth "Wiz" Bachman and in-laws of U.S. men's volleyball coach Hugh McCutcheon - were attacked by a Chinese man while visiting the 13th-century Drum Tower on Saturday. The assault came hours after the games' spectacular opening ceremony.

The U.S. Olympic Committee confirmed Bachman died from knife wounds and Barbara Bachman suffered life-threatening injuries. She and their Chinese tour guide, who was also injured in the attack, were being treated in a Beijing hospital.

The committee said Sunday that Mrs. Bachman suffered multiple lacerations and stab wounds. She underwent eight hours of surgery and was in critical but stable condition.

Rob Browning, leader of the men's volleyball team, said the team was united in supporting the Bachmans.

Pakistani forces bomb houses near Afghan border

KHAR, Pakistan (AP)—Pakistani forces bombed dozens of houses in a tribal region near the Afghan border Sunday, officials and witnesses said, in a military offensive that comes amid U.S. pressure for Pakistan to crack down on militants.

Days of clashes have reportedly killed at least 100 insurgents and nine paramilitary troops in the area, an insurgent stronghold considered a possible hiding place for al-Qaida leaders Osama bin Laden and Ayman al-Zawahri.

Details have been scarce about the military offensive in Bajur.

Sardar Khan, a local police official, said two spells of aerial bombing destroyed about 40 houses in several villages. He said bombs also struck a school occupied by Taliban fighters in Loi Sam, a village that has been a key focus of the fighting.

Two area residents, Sher Zamin and Attaullah Khan, said army planes and helicopters dropped bombs and shells, apparently on suspected Taliban positions.

Meanwhile, an Associated Press reporter in Khar, the main town in Bajur, saw Taliban militants patrolling and staking out positions on roads with rocket launchers, heavy machine guns and, in some places, anti-aircraft guns. There is increasing pressure from the West on Pakistan's government to act against Taliban and al-Qaida strongholds in its frontier region with Afghanistan.

Pakistani officials have sought peace agreements in the border region in hopes of curbing Islamic extremists who have been blamed for a wave of suicide attacks across the country in the past year.

NATO contends the cease-fire deals have allowed militants based in the frontier region to step up attacks in Afghanistan, while U.S. officials warn that al-Qaida leaders hiding along the border could be plotting another Sept. 11-style attack on the West.

The Bajur offensive came in the wake of a militant assault Wednesday on an outpost manned by security forces. Officials said those initial clashes killed 25 militants and two troops.

World

Russia expands Georgia blitz, deploys ships

TBILISI, Georgia (AP)—Russia battled Georgian forces on land and sea, reports said late Sunday, despite a Georgian cease-fire offer and its claim to be withdrawing from South Ossetia, the separatist Georgian province battered by days of intense fighting. Russia claimed to have sunk a Georgian boat that was trying to attack Russian vessels in the Black Sea, and Georgian officials said Russia sent tanks from South Ossetia into Georgia proper, heading toward a strategic city before being turned back.

Russian planes on Sunday twice bombed an area near the Georgian capital's airport, officials said.

The violence appeared to show gargantuan Russia's determination to subdue diminutive, U.S.-backed Georgia, even at the risk of international reproach. Russia fended off a wave of international calls to observe Georgia's cease-fire, saying it must first be assured that Georgian troops have indeed pulled back from South Ossetia.

International envoys were heading in to try to end the conflict before it spreads throughout the Caucasus, a region plagued by ethnic tensions. But it was unclear what inducements or pressure the envoys could bring to bear, or to what extent either side was truly sensitive to world opinion. Georgian President Mikhail Saakashvili said one of the Russian raids on the airport area came a half hour before the arrival of the foreign ministers of France and Finland - in the country to try to mediate.

Georgian Interior Ministry spokesman Temur Yakobashvili said Russian tanks tried to cross from South Ossetia into the territory of Georgia proper, but were turned back by Georgian forces.

AP

Soldiers sit on top a Russian tank at a street in a town of Tskhinvali, capital of breakaway Georgian enclave South Osetia, in this image made from television Sunday, Aug. 10, 2008.

He said the tanks apparently were trying to approach Gori, but did not fire on the city of about 50,000 that sits on Georgia's only significant east-west highway.

Russia also sent naval vessels to patrol off Georgia's Black Sea coast, but denied Sunday that the move was aimed at establishing a blockade.

The ITAR-Tass news agency quoted a Russian Defense Ministry spokesman as saying that Georgian missile boats twice tried to attack Russian ships, which fired back and sank one of the Georgian vessels.

Bush says violence in Georgia unacceptable

BEIJING (AP)—President Bush on Monday sharply criticized Moscow's harsh military crackdown in the former Soviet republic of Georgia, saying the violence is unacceptable and Russia's response is disproportionate.

The United States is waging an all-out campaign to press Russia to halt its retaliation against Georgia for trying to take control of the breakaway province of South Ossetia.

Bush, in an interview with NBC, said, "I've expressed my grave concern about the disproportionate response of Russia and that we strongly condemn the bombing outside of South Ossetia."

Bush

On Sunday, Vice President Dick Cheney said that "Russian aggression must not go unanswered, and that its continuation would have serious consequences for its relations with the United States."

The crisis over South Ossetia appeared to ebb as Georgian troops began retreating and honoring a cease-fire, a claim Russia disputed. U.S. officials said Moscow was only broadening its retaliation against Georgia for trying to take control of the region.

The sheer scope of Russia's military response has the Bush administration deeply worried. Russia on Sunday expanded its bombing blitz in areas of Georgia not central to the fighting. Cheney spoke Sunday afternoon with Georgian President Mikhail Saakashvili, Cheney press secretary Lee Ann McBride said. "The vice president expressed the United States' solidarity with the Georgian people and their democratically elected government in the face of this threat to Georgia's sovereignty and territorial integrity," McBride said.

Asked to explain Cheney's phrase "must not go unanswered," White House spokesman Gordon Johndroe said, "It means it must not stand." White House officials refused to indicate what recourse the United States might have if the military onslaught continues.

Iraq demands 'clear timeline' for US withdrawal

BAGHDAD (AP)—Iraq's foreign minister insisted Sunday that any security deal with the United States must contain a "very clear timeline" for the departure of U.S. troops. A suicide bomber struck north of Baghdad, killing at least five people including an American soldier.

Foreign Minister Hoshyar Zebari told reporters that American and Iraqi negotiators were "very close" to reaching a long-term security agreement that will set the rules for U.S. troops in Iraq after the U.N. mandate expires at the end of the year.

Zebari said the Iraqis were insisting that the agreement include a "very clear timeline" for the withdrawal of U.S.-led forces, but he refused to talk about specific dates.

"We have said that this is a condition-driven process," he added, suggesting that the departure schedule could be modified if the security situation changed.

But Zebari made clear that the Iraqis would not accept a deal that lacks a timeline for the end of the U.S. military presence.

"No, no definitely there has to be a very clear timeline," Zebari replied when asked if the Iraqis would accept an agreement that did not mention dates.

Differences over a withdrawal timetable have become one of the most contentious issues remaining in the talks, which began early this year. U.S. and Iraqi negotiators missed a July 31 target date for completing the deal, which must be approved by Iraq's parliament.

President Bush has steadfastly refused to accept any timetable for bringing U.S. troops home. Last month, however, Bush and Prime Minister Nouri al-Maliki agreed to set a "general time horizon" for a U.S. departure. Last week, two senior Iraqi officials told The Associated Press that American negotiators had agreement to a formula which would remove U.S. forces from Iraqi cities by June 30, 2009, with all combat troops out of the country by October 2010.

The last American support troops would leave about three years later, the Iraqis said.

Bolivians back Morales in recall referendum

LA PAZ, Bolivia (AP)—Voters vigorously endorsed President Evo Morales on Sunday in a recall referendum he devised to try to break a political stalemate and revive his leftist crusade, partial unofficial results showed.

More than 62 percent of voters in this bitterly divided Andean nation ratified the mandate of Morales and his vice president, Alvaro Garcia, according to a private quick count of votes from 900 of the country's 22,700 polling stations.

Morales

The 53.7 percent by which Bolivia's first indigenous president won election in December 2005 had been the previous best electoral showing for a Bolivian leader.

Morales had proposed Sunday's recall in a bold gamble to topple governors who have frustrated his bid to redress historical inequities in favor of Bolivia's long-suppressed indigenous majority and extend his time in office.

Eight of the country's nine governors were also subject to recall - and two Morales foes were among the three ousted, according to the quick count, which was conducted by the Ipsos-Apoyo firm for the ATB television network. First official results were not expected until late Sunday.

Morales' leftist agenda has met with bitter opposition in the unabashedly capitalistic eastern half of the country, where protesters who accuse him of being a lackey of Venezuelan President Hugo Chavez last week blockaded airports to keep Morales from touching down for campaign visits.

Propane explosions in Toronto force evacuation

TORONTO (AP)—Explosions at a propane facility forced thousands of people to evacuate early Sunday, and witnesses described the sky lighting up in the glow of an enormous fireball before turning black with billowing smoke. One firefighter died, authorities said.

Firefighters were battling blazes at the Sunrise Propane Industrial Gasses facility hours later. A worker at the plant was unaccounted for, Toronto police spokesman Mark Pugash said. Some residents suffered minor injuries.

Toronto fire services division chief David Sheen said the veteran firefighter died at the scene, though cause of death was not immediately known.

"It's hard," Sheen said, his voice cracking. "I'm sure all of our guys are having a rough time with it."

The explosions early Sunday also shut down Canada's busiest highway and a part of the subway system, snarling traffic for thousands of travelers. Mayor David Miller the fire was under control, but the chance of another explosion still exists because it is a propane facility.

AP

Toronto firefighters work at a burning propane storage area in Toronto on Sunday, Aug. 10, 2008.

Some residents said the blast was so forceful they felt their homes rock as though they had been struck by an earthquake.

"It was just a tremendous explosion and blew all the windows out of the house, just blew the house up, and I just managed to get out of there in time," said Robert Helman, who was covered in cuts and bruises as he fled his home.

Fearing the air had turned toxic, police used bullhorns to order the estimated 12,500 residents within a mile radius of the plant to flee their homes immediately. Air quality tests later in the day showed the fumes were not toxic.

About a dozen terrified residents - some clad in pajamas and housecoats - found their way on foot to nearby Yorkdale shopping mall, where security offered them water and a place to rest. Toronto fire services division commander Bob O'Hallarn saw at least five heavily damaged homes and said windows were blown out a fair distance from the scene. He also saw large pieces of metal on the street and said it looked like they were from tanker trucks.

He said it could he hours before residents are allowed to return, and that most of them were evacuated to a nearby university.

Miller said authorities are reviewing why the propane facility was allowed to be built near a residential area.

Overdrive

2009 MAZDA 6I SPORT

Mazda's answer to troubled times

By WARREN BROWN
(C) 2008, THE WASHINGTON POST

WESTLAKE VILLAGE, Calif.—I toured this bedroom community in the 2009 Mazda 6, the latest entry in the hotly contested market for mid-size, mid-priced family sedans.

It was an instructive drive, one that revealed much about our economically wobbly, politically and personally uncertain times.

Consider the car.

I chose the version that will constitute at least 60 percent of the 2009 Mazda 6 sedan sales in the United States—the Mazda 6i Sport with the 2.5-liter, inline four-cylinder, 170-horsepower engine and five-speed automatic transmission. Ten to 11 percent of Mazda 6 sales will probably come from four-cylinder models with six-speed manual transmissions.

That means barely 30 percent of 2009 Mazda 6 sales would come from 6s sedans, with 272-horsepower, 3.7-liter V-6 engines. And that, some Mazda officials privately admit, is being optimistic in the matter of projected V-6 sales.

THE WASHINGTON POST

Mazda's 2009 6i Sport is powerful enough to enter freeways with authority and handles well on twists and turns.

The world has changed, and car companies such as Mazda are scrambling like crazy to figure out what those changes mean.

Consider this community.

In late 2002, when Mazda introduced the first version of its 6 car, this town straddling the Los Angeles and Ventura County border was rolling in irrational exuberance. Housing prices were high and rising higher. Consumer confidence, in large measure supported by easy credit, rose along with housing costs. America's quest for bigger, better, faster and more of everything was on full display here.

Back then, Mazda officials thought they misjudged the market—bringing forth a Mazda 6 sedan that was smaller and a tad less powerful than some mid-size rivals. In 2004, the company also offered hatchback and wagon versions of the Mazda 6 to a market that appeared to want neither.

Having learned what the company said were "lessons ... from the first Mazda 6 and Mazda's newer successful vehicles—especially the Mazda CX-7 and the award-winning CX-9," Mazda executives were determined to deliver a new Mazda 6 that was bigger, sportier and more powerful than its predecessors.

This they did. But a day's drive around Westlake Village and surrounding communities raises a question about whether they did the right thing.

The boom seems to have busted here. The place looks just as pretty, just as affluent as it has in years past. But there are signs of stress—posted gasoline prices as high as $4.39 a gallon for regular unleaded; and here and in neighboring Ventura County, there are bank sale signs on homes locals say were purchased only a year or so ago.

For Mazda and other car companies, this turnabout in economic fortunes has caused a turnabout in production plans. Most have canceled or scaled back truck production. Plans for models with V-6 and V-8 engines have been shelved or otherwise diminished. In early planning for what is now the 2009 Mazda 6 sedan, Mazda officials initially thought V-6 models would account for at least 50 percent of 6 sales. Now, instead, the company is ramping up production of its more fuel-economical, inline four-cylinder models.

That's OK.

The Mazda 6i Sport sedan worked just fine. It was powerful enough to enter freeways with authority. It handled quite well on twists and turns. Its cabin was an attractive, comfortable place to sit during periods of incarceration in urban traffic congestion. And at the end of the day, I could smile at a fuel gauge that showed I had consumed barely a quarter of a tank of the recommended unleaded gasoline.

Yeah, I think the four-cylinder models will sell quite well.

NUTS & BOLTS

By WARREN BROWN
(C) 2008, THE WASHINGTON POST

COMPLAINTS

The five-speed automatic should be six-speed. I think Mazda might have erred by making the new Mazda 6 larger than its predecessor. This model is nice. It would be nicer in an even smaller, tighter package.

RIDE, ACCELERATION AND HANDLING

There is excellent performance in all three categories. The four-cylinder Mazda 6 serves well both as a commuter and long-distance runner.

BODY STYLE/LAYOUT

The 2009 Mazda 6 is a front-engine, front-wheel-drive, mid-size, mid-priced family sedan.

HEAD-TURNING QUOTIENT

Very attractive inside and out. I like that Mazda's designers deliberately used Japanese cultural flavor. There is a reverence for the tiniest details, right down to the feel of dials on the panel.

ENGINE/TRANSMISSIONS

The tested 2009 Mazda 6i comes with a 2.5-liter, 16-valve, inline four-cylinder engine that develops 170 horsepower at 6,000 revolutions per minute and 167 foot-pounds of torque at 4,000 revolutions per minute. That engine is mated to a five-speed automatic transmission that also can be shifted manually. Models with V-6 engines and six-speed automatic transmissions are available.

CAPACITIES

There are seats for five people. Luggage capacity is 16.6 cubic feet. The fuel tank holds 18.5 gallons of gasoline.

MILEAGE

Most of my driving was urban, during which I averaged 20 miles per gallon in lots of stop-and-go — but mostly stop — traffic. The four-cylinder Mazda 6 has a federal rating of 30 miles per gallon on the highway.

SAFETY

Four-wheel disc brakes with antilock control are standard. Other standard equipment includes side and head air bags and electronic stability and traction control.

PRICE

The base price on the 2009 Mazda 6i Sport with four cylinders and a five-speed automatic transmission is $21,150. Dealer's invoice price on that model is $19,557. Price as tested — no options in this case — is $21,820, including a $670 destination charge. Dealer's price as tested is $20,227. Prices sourced from Mazda, Edmunds.com and Cars.com, an affiliate of The Washington Post.

PURSE-STRINGS NOTE

The 2009 Mazda 6 is a strong contender in a competitive market. Compare with the Chevrolet Malibu, Ford Focus, Honda Accord, Hyundai Sonata and Toyota Camry.

Nissan cars to push back when drivers floor it

TOKYO (AP)—Nissan Motor Co. will soon sell cars that push back when drivers try to put the pedal to the metal. It has also developed a test model packed with additional sensor technology to make vehicles crash-free.

The features unveiled this week by Nissan Motor Co. are the latest among recent efforts by the world's automakers to vamp up their images.

Nissan's collision-free prototype has sensors at its back and side that turn on alarms and brakes to help avoid collisions. The system also helps the vehicle maintain a safe distance with the car in front, as well as preventing it from veering off its lane, Nissan said Tuesday.

Nissan has said it hopes to halve the number of traffic accidents or serious injuries involving Nissan vehicles in Japan by 2015 compared to 1995 levels.

Nissan's "ECO Pedal" system—promoted as being both green and safe—makes the gas pedal press upward when it senses motorists are speeding up too quickly.

Nissan said in a news release Monday the system, which will be available next year, can help drivers improve fuel efficiency 5 to 10 percent.

AP

Nissan Motor Co.'s electric car EV-02 drives at the automaker's test course in Yokosuka, near Tokyo, Wednesday, Aug. 6, 2008.

The system calculates the most efficient rate of acceleration in a vehicle based on how fast fuel is being burned and other factors and causes the gas pedal to push back to alert overzealous drivers.

CRUISIN'

Pre-1964 muscle cars

By GREG ZYLA
(C) 2008 KING FEATURES SYND., INC.

A recent letter from a reader in Virginia rekindled our interest in "muscle cars," but with a "Crusin'" twist. So here's our list of the best pre-1964 muscle cars. All models are two-door.

1) 1949 Oldsmobile 88: This model started the horsepower wars, and officially receives our first true muscle-car nod. Equipped with an overhead-valve V-8, it evolved into a 305-horsepower, 371 cubic-inch shotgun by 1958. This 4,000-pound Rocket accelerated to 60 mph in 8.5 seconds and could run over 135 mph in street trim.

2) 1951 Hudson Hornet: The fabulous Hudson Hornets came with an inline 303-inch "Super Six" engine that put out lots of horses and carried Tim Flock to the checkered flag in 27 of 34 NASCAR races in 1952.

3) 1954 Corvette: The start of America's love affair. First-year buyers found an inline 235-inch six-cylinder under the hood that pumped out a mere 150 horses. By 1956, the small-block V-8 made its debut, and the power really came on.

4) 1955 Chrysler 300: The first of 10 years of Chrysler 300 pleasures. Along the way, the engine grew from 331 to 413 cubic inches, and horsepower scooted all the way to 390. For you historians, we're discounting "later year" 300s.

5) 1956 Studebaker Golden Hawk: A beautifully styled car with a 352-inch, 275-horse power-plant, and the result was poetry in motion.

6) 1957 Chevrolet Bel-Air: This car started Chevy's domination at both drags and circle tracks, and was one of the most aesthetically pleasing cars of the '50s.

7) 1959 Ford Thunderbird: A '59 four-seater over a '57 two-seater? How about 430-inches of Ford power kicking out 350 horses? It was available in '59.

Honorable Mention: 1961 Chevy Impala SS, 1962 Ford Galaxie 500, 1962 Dodge Dart.

Write to Greg Zyla in care of King Features Weekly Service, P.O. Box 536475, Orlando, FL 32853-6475, or send e-mail to gzyla@ptd.net.

Life & Style

Unrelenting grief may be sign of distinct syndrome

By ROB STEIN
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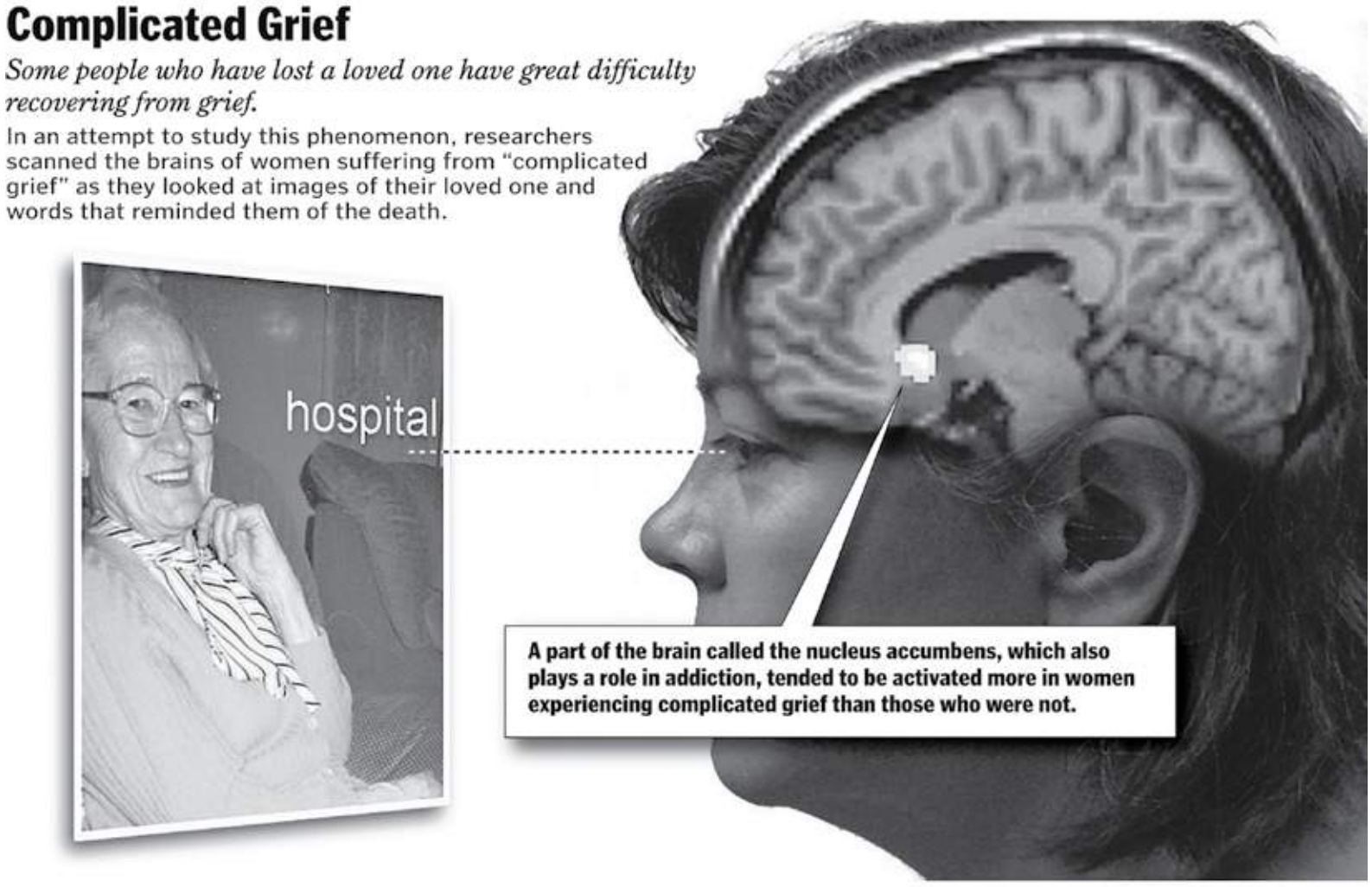

Complicated Grief
Some people who have lost a loved one have great difficulty recovering from grief.
In an attempt to study this phenomenon, researchers scanned the brains of women suffering from "complicated grief" as they looked at images of their loved one and words that reminded them of the death.
hospital
A part of the brain called the nucleus accumbens, which also plays a role in addiction, tended to be activated more in women experiencing complicated grief than those who were not.
SOURCE: UCLA
TEST AND SCAN IMAGES COURTESY OF AHMANSON-LOVELACE BRAIN MAPPING CENTER; GRAPHIC BY PATTERSON CLARK — THE WASHINGTON POST
An unrelenting form of mourning is gaining recognition as a distinct psychological syndrome known as "complicated grief." THE WASHINGTON POST

After Janice Van Wagner's mother died of breast cancer two years ago, her sense of loss was overwhelming.

"I was devastated," said Van Wagner, 34, of Los Angeles. "I felt like a piece of me had gone missing. It was like I was split in two."

While most people grieve when someone close to them dies, the emotional intensity tends to recede with time. But for some, like Van Wagner, their pain persists, sometimes for months or even years, often making it impossible to resume a normal life.

"I was kind of stuck in a repetitive thinking about the suffering that she went through in the last month of her life and the last few weeks," Van Wagner said. "I just kept reliving that over and over again in my mind."

This unrelenting form of mourning, which affects an estimated 10 percent to 20 percent of people who have lost someone close, is gaining recognition as a distinct psychological syndrome known as "complicated grief."

Now, in the first attempt to study it with brain scanning technology, researchers have found a biological clue that appears to help confirm the existence of the syndrome and explain why it happens.

"This is very important," said Camille B. Wortman, a professor of psychology at Stony Brook University in New York. "I think it has very important implications for how grief is conceptualized and how it is treated."

While cautioning that the findings need to be confirmed and explored by additional research, others agreed.

"This shows that there's actually a difference in the brains of people who have the syndrome compared to the ones who don't," said Katherine Shear, a professor of psychiatry at Columbia University. "Some people are still confused by the fact that it does resemble regular grief."

For the study, Mary-Frances O'Connor of the University of California at Los Angeles and her colleagues conducted functional magnetic resonance imaging (fMRI) on 11 women experiencing complicated grief, including Van Wagner, and 12 others who grieved more normally following the death of a mother or sister from breast cancer. During the scans, which show what parts of the brain are active at a given moment, each woman was asked to look at a picture of her lost loved one, with words superimposed to remind her of the death, or at similar pictures of strangers.

"I wanted to know if there is something different in the brain when people are processing their grief in those who are adapting well and those who are not adapting well," O'Connor said. "The question was: Are their brains processing their grief differently?"

In all the women, the parts of the brain involved in physical and emotional pain activated only when they saw the pictures of their loved ones. But in the women experiencing complicated grief, another area also lighted up. Called the nucleus accumbens, it is part of the brain's reward system, the researchers report in a paper being published this month in the journal NeuroImage.

"At first, we found this very strange," O'Connor said. "It seemed like it would be a good thing to experience a reward. So why would you find this in a group that is not doing well?"

One of the hallmarks of complicated grief, however, is a persistent sense of longing for the lost one and a tendency to conjure up reveries of that person.

"It's an intense feeling of wanting that person back," Van Wagner said, noting it was sometimes so overwhelming that music became unbearable because it reminded her too much of her mother. "It's an extreme yearning."

Because the nucleus accumbens is involved in anticipating a reward, this might explain why people suffering complex grief are unable to move on, O'Connor and others suspect.

"This is the part of the brain involved in knowing that you want something," she said. "When people who are not adjusting well are having these sorts of thoughts about the person, they are experiencing this reward pathway being activated. They really are craving in a way that perhaps is not allowing them or helping them adapt to the new reality."

The same brain system is involved in other powerful cravings, such those that afflict drug addicts and alcoholics.

"One reason they are stuck is they are getting something pleasurable about thinking about and immersing themselves in memories of the deceased," said Holly Prigerson, an associate professor of psychiatry at Harvard Medical School. "It's like they're addicted to the happy memories."

The findings could help explain why drugs used to treat depression are generally ineffective for complicated grief: They affect a different brain system involving the neurotransmitter serotonin. Drugs that affect the dopamine, a different chemical messenger that is involved with the nucleus accumbens, might be more effective.

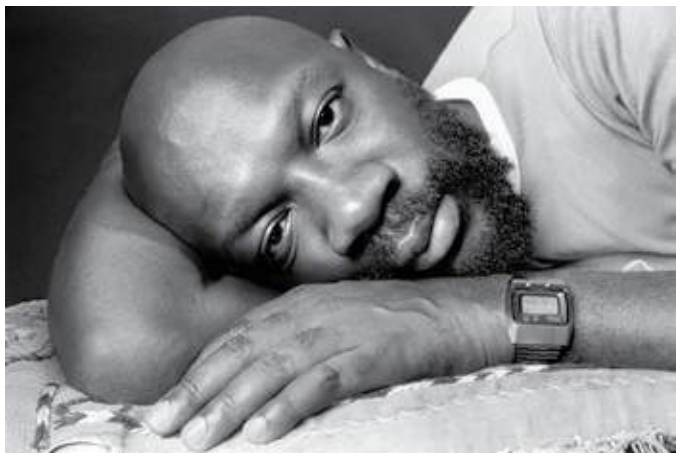
In addition, the findings could provide insights that could lead to improved psychotherapy for complicated grief, which has proven highly resistant to therapies used for depression.

Hayes, 'Shaft' singer and disco presage, dies

MEMPHIS, Tenn. (AP)—Isaac Hayes, the baldheaded, baritone-voiced soul crooner who laid the groundwork for disco and whose "Theme From Shaft" won both Academy and Grammy awards, died Sunday afternoon after he collapsed near a treadmill, authorities said. He was 65.

Hayes was pronounced dead at Baptist East Hospital in Memphis an hour after he was found by a family member, the Shelby County Sheriff's Office said. The cause of death was not immediately known.

With his muscular build, shiny head and sunglasses, Hayes cut a striking figure at a time when most of his contemporaries were sporting Afros. His music, which came to be known as urban-contemporary, paved the way for disco as well as romantic crooners like Barry White.


AP
In this early 1970s file photo released in New York by 60 Cycle Media, Isaac Hayes is shown.

And in his spoken-word introductions and interludes, Hayes was essentially rapping before there was rap. His career hit another high in 1997 when he became the voice of Chef, the sensible school cook and devoted ladies man on the animated TV show "South Park." "Isaac Hayes embodies everything that's soul music," Collin Stanback, an A&R executive at Stax, told The Associated Press on Sunday. "When you think of soul music you think of Isaac Hayes - the expression ... the sound and the creativity that goes along with it."

Hayes was about to begin work on a new album for Stax, the soul record label he helped build to legendary status. And he had recently finished work on a movie called "Soul Men" in which he played himself, starring Samuel Jackson and Bernie Mac, who died on Saturday.

Steve Shular, a spokesman for the sheriff's office, said authorities received a 911 call after Hayes' wife and young son and his wife's cousin returned home from the grocery store and found him collapsed in a downstairs bedroom. A sheriff's deputy administered CPR until paramedics arrived.

"The treadmill was running but he was unresponsive lying on the floor," Shular said.

The album "Hot Buttered Soul" made Hayes a star in 1969. His shaven head, gold chains and sunglasses gave him a compelling visual image.

"Hot Buttered Soul" was groundbreaking in several ways: He sang in a "cool" style unlike the usual histrionics of big-time soul singers. He prefaced the song with "raps," and the numbers ran longer than three minutes with lush arrangements.

"Jocks would play it at night," Hayes recalled in a 1999 Associated Press interview. "They could go to the bathroom, they could get a sandwich, or whatever."

Next came "Theme From Shaft," a No. 1 hit in 1971 from the film "Shaft" starring Richard Roundtree.

"That was like the shot heard round the world," Hayes said in the 1999 interview.

At the Oscar ceremony in 1972, Hayes performed the song wearing an eye-popping amount of gold and received a standing ovation. TV Guide later chose it as No. 18 in its list of television's 25 most memorable moments. He won an Academy Award for the song and was nominated for another one for the score. The song and score also won him two Grammys.

Rob Riggle's off the hook in China

NEW YORK (AP)—Foreign correspondency on the fake news of "The Daily Show" usually amounts to someone standing in front of a video screen on the New York set, a few steps away from Jon Stewart's desk.

But to coincide with the Olympics, the show's Rob Riggle went to China. Really. His skewed travelogue unfolds this week on the Comedy Central hit.

That's when they find out whether they've created any international incidents.

"It was an opportunity to go over to China and do something that has probably not been done in the past—go to China and do some comedy," said Riggle, a former U.S. Marine who served in Afghanistan and is still on reserve.

Riggle, who last year traveled to Iraq for "Operation Silent Thunder," started planning by applying in January for journalists' visa. With the intercession of MTV executives in China, they got the go-ahead less than 24 hours before their plane was due to leave on July 29.

"There were days when we got promising news and days when we got not-so-encouraging news," said Glenn Clements, field producer and Riggles' traveling partner. "But we decided to stick it out until the end, and it paid off." Trying to explain what "The Daily Show" did would have been difficult. They essentially delivered a list of places where they planned to do filming.

They were able to film segments on the Great Wall of China and within Tiananmen Square, the latter historic site the focus of debates with Chinese authorities over access.

"Our motto was 'Let's just go until they tell us to stop,'" Riggle said.

AP

In this image released by Comedy Central, Senior Foreign Correspondent Rob Riggle with "The Daily Show with Jon Stewart" is shown riding a rickshaw in China.

Riggle and his crew were followed almost everywhere by Chinese police, although only once was a hand placed over a camera lens cap and they were told to go away. It was a moment the comedy writers probably couldn't have made up: They were filming the outside of a 7-11 convenience store.

Other times when police expressed concern about what the crew was doing Clements essentially hid behind the language barrier.

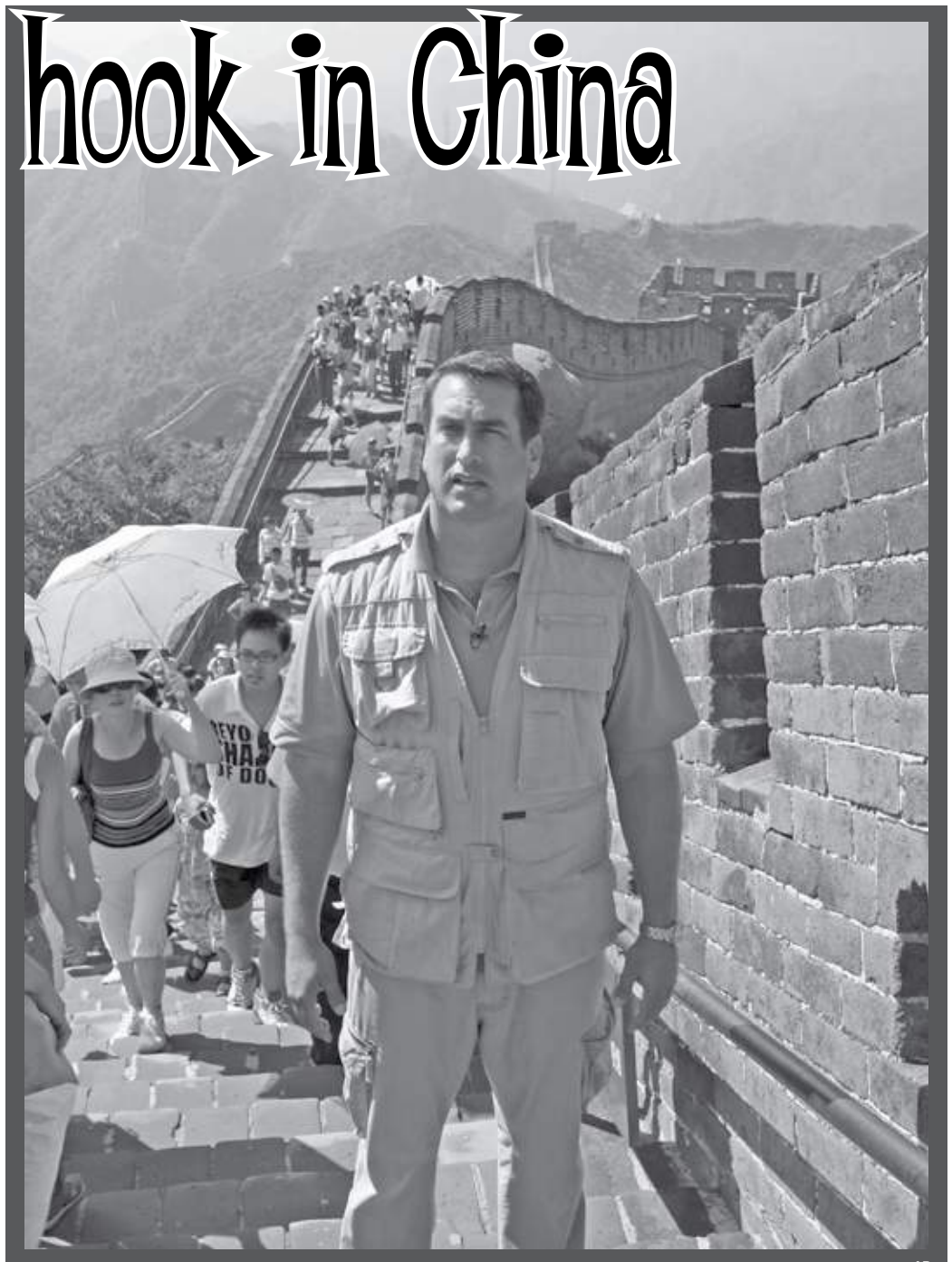
When they stopped on the street to do some filming, crowds would immediately form around them, attracting more police.

But anytime Clements' crew tried turning the camera around and speaking to Chinese citizens, the crowds would scatter. They would literally turn and run away, Riggle said. As a result, only a foreign journalist and Chinese newscaster were interviewed for the series.

Even for an ex-Marine, the police state atmosphere was intimidating.

"There were moments where you were just being watched very closely," he said. "We still did what we wanted to do, but I was hurrying it up, saying 'Come on, come on, let's go.' It was a subconscious thing."

Riggle also had the somewhat unexpected experience of being recognized on the street. Twice. One young Asian couple came up and said how much they enjoyed watching him on Stewart's show, leading him to wonder where they had seen it. His first segment, on Monday, will be a mock "up close and personal" look at Riggle and his journey to the Olympics. They also plan a tongue-in-cheek look at the exotic and mysterious places in China, hence the trips to 7-11 and Western-style shopping malls.



AP

In this image released by Comedy Central, Senior Foreign Correspondent Rob Riggle with "The Daily Show with Jon Stewart" is shown at the Great Wall of China.

The team will also take some shots at the Chinese authoritarian government and a critical look at history, much the same way as "The Daily Show" satirizes the U.S. government, Clements said. The four segments, prepared over the weekend between bouts of jet lag, is called "Rob Riggle: Chasing the Dragon."

"Jon always has a very good sense of what's in good taste and bad," he said, "and we'll try to stay within the bounds of what we think is good taste. We didn't go in there to make fun of the Chinese people at all."

Poof! Scientists closer to invisibility cloak

WASHINGTON (AP)—Scientists say they are a step closer to developing materials that could render people and objects invisible.

Researchers have demonstrated for the first time they were able to cloak three-dimensional objects using artificially engineered materials that redirect light around the objects. Previously, they only have been able to cloak very thin two-dimensional objects.

The findings, by scientists at the University of California, Berkeley, led by Xiang Zhang, are to be released later this week in the journals Nature and Science.

The new work moves scientists a step closer to hiding people and objects from visible light, which could have broad applications, including military ones.

People can see objects because they scatter the light that strikes them, reflecting some of it back to the eye. Cloaking uses materials, known as metamaterials, to deflect radar, light or other waves around an object, like water flowing around a smooth rock in a stream.

Metamaterials are mixtures of metal and circuit board materials such as ceramic, Teflon or fiber composite. They are designed to bend visible light in a way that ordinary materials don't. Scientists are trying to use them to bend light around objects so they don't create reflections or shadows.

It differs from stealth technology, which does not make an aircraft invisible but reduces the cross-section available to radar, making it hard to track.

The research was funded in part by the U.S. Army Research Office and the National Science Foundation's Nano-Scale Science and Engineering Center.

Bernie Mac's family expected him to pull through

CHICAGO (AP)—Comedian Bernie Mac's family had expected him to fully recover from the bout of pneumonia that put him in a hospital three weeks ago, his daughter said Sunday.

However, Je'niece Childress said that as time passed she and her mother braced for the possibility that he could die. Mac, 50, died Saturday from what his publicist said were complications from pneumonia.

Childress said Mac had been at Northwestern Memorial Hospital since the middle of July.

"Initially when he was hospitalized we expected him to come back home, but as the weeks went on, I kind of knew," Childress told The Associated Press.

Mac also suffered from sarcoidosis, an inflammatory lung disease, but he had said the condition went into remission in 2005. His publicist, Danica Smith, has said the pneumonia was unrelated to the sarcoidosis.

Mac, born Bernard Jeffrey McCullough in Chicago, got his start doing standup as a child. His successful career included his own Fox television series, "The Bernie Mac Show" and starring roles in "Ocean's Eleven," "Bad Santa," "Charlie's Angels: Full Throttle" and "Transformers."

Childress said Mac, who maintained a home in the south Chicago suburb of Frankfort, was a loving father, husband and grandfather. Childress, 30, is his only child, and has a 1-year-old daughter. She said her mother, Rhonda McCullough, and Mac were married for 32 years.

AP

In this undated photo originally provided by Columbia Pictures, Ashton Kutcher, left, and Bernie Mac are shown in a scene from " Guess Who."

"He was a hard man and he made no apologies for that," Childress said. "When it came to me and my mother and my daughter he was the softest." Recently, Mac's brand of comedy caught him some flack when he joked about menopause, sexual infidelity and promiscuity at a July fundraiser for Democratic presidential candidate Barack Obama. Obama's campaign later said the jokes were "inappropriate."

"I kind of figured he was going to get a lot of backlash," Childress said. "Telling that joke at that time probably wasn't the best idea, but that's him."

Children said there was always laughter in their home.

"Because that's just who he was," Childress said. "I'm sad that my daughter will never know or be able to feel how much he loved her."

"I think he will always be remembered as one of the original kings of comedy," Childress said. "I think what made him so special to people was that even though he was a celebrity he just seemed so down to earth and so much like a part of your family."

She said funeral arrangements were pending. Smith said a public memorial would be held next weekend at House of Hope in Chicago.

'Dark Knight' stays on top with $26M

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Batman was higher than Hollywood's newest pot heads.

"The Dark Knight" took in $26 million to finish as the No. 1 movie for the fourth straight weekend, beating the stoner comedy "Pineapple Express," which opened in second place with $22.4 million, according to studio estimates Sunday.

The weekend haul lifted the Warner Bros. Batman sequel to No. 3 on the all-time domestic box-office charts with $441.5 million, behind only "Titanic" ($600.8 million) and the original "Star Wars" ($461 million).

The last movie to remain No. 1 for four consecutive weekends was "The Lord of the Rings: The Return of the King" in late 2003 and 2004, according to box-office tracker Media By Numbers. That movie did it during a much slower time of year, with nowhere near the competition "The Dark Knight" has faced during Hollywood's busy summer season.

"It's almost unheard of. Summer doesn't usually afford films that much of a wide-open playing field," said Paul Dergarabedian, president of Media By Numbers.

"The Dark Knight" should surpass "Star Wars" to become No. 2 on the revenue chart by this coming weekend.

However, the numbers reflect today's higher admission prices, and "The Dark Knight" will not approach "Star Wars" or "Titanic" in terms of actual number of tickets sold. Taking inflation into account, "The Dark Knight" would need to pull in about $900 million to match the number of tickets sold for "Titanic" and about $1.2 billion to equal "Star Wars."

Even so, "The Dark Knight" has far outdone even its studio's expectations. Dan Fellman, head of distribution for Warner Bros., said he would have been happy if the movie simply exceeded the $205 million domestic total of its predecessor, "Batman Begins."

It should top out at $510 million to $520 million, Fellman said.

"It has taken on a life of its own, and in doing so got so much positive press and word of mouth that older audiences who normally don't rush out to see movies or maybe only see two, three movies a year are coming out in large numbers," Fellman said. "It's a question of `We've been reading about this for three, four weeks now. Let's go see what it's all about.'"

Since opening Wednesday, Sony's "Pineapple Express" had taken in $40.5 million. The action comedy stars Seth Rogen as a pot smoker on the run from crooks after he witnesses a murder, with his lovably clueless dealer (James Franco) in tow.

While "Pineapple Express" was unable to dislodge "The Dark Knight," Sony executives were happy with a strong No. 2 finish given the juggernaut the Batman flick has become. "Quite frankly, it's nice to know that everything else is still kind of doing some business," said Rory Bruer, Sony head of distribution. "We're so very satisfied to be at $40 million-plus after five days. You couldn't ask for more."

1. "**The Dark Knight**," $26 million.
2. "**Pineapple Express**," $22.4 million.
3. "**The Mummy: Tomb of the Dragon Emperor**," $16.1 million.
4. "**The Sisterhood of the Traveling Pants 2**," $10.8 million.
5. "**Step Brothers**," $8.9 million. 6. "Mamma Mia!", $8.1 million.
7. "**Journey to the Center of the Earth**," $4.9 million.
8. "**Hancock**," $3.3 million.
9. "**Swing Vote**," $3.1 million.
10. "**WALL-E**," $3 million.

The weekend's other wide release, the Warner Bros. sequel "The Sisterhood of the Traveling Pants 2," opened at No. 4 with $10.8 million, raising its total to $19.7 million since debuting Wednesday.

The movie reunites gal pals America Ferrera, Amber Tamblyn, Alexis Bledel and Blake Lively as the foursome whose friendship is reinforced by the worn pair of pants they share.

Estimated ticket sales for Friday through Sunday at U.S. and Canadian theaters, according to Media By Numbers LLC. Final figures will be released Monday.

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Pineapple Express

Fri & Sat 1:25 4:30 7:25 9:40
Sun thru Tue 1:25 4:30 7:25

James Franco, Seth Rogen
Action, Comedy, Thriller • Rated R

Synopsis

Process server Dale Denton has a grudging business relationship with the laconic Saul Silver, deigning to visit only to purchase Saul's primo product—a rare new strain of pot called Pineapple Express. But when Dale becomes the only witness to a murder by a crooked cop and the city's most dangerous drug lord, he panics and dumps the Pineapple Express at the scene. When it's traced back to him, Dale and Saul run for their lives—and they quickly discover that they're not just suffering from weed-fueled paranoia.

★ ★ ★

The Mummy: Tomb of the Dragon Emperor

Fri & Sat 1:05 4:15 7:05 9:45
Sun thru Tue 1:05 4:15 7:05

Brendan Fraser, Jet Li
Action, Adventure • Rated PG 13

Synopsis

Doomed by a wronged sorceress, Zi Yuan, to spend eternity in suspended animation, China's ruthless Dragon Emperor and his 10,000 warriors have laid forgotten for eons, entombed in clay as a vast, silent Terracotta Army. But when dashing adventurer AlexO'Connell is tricked into awakening the ruler from eternal slumber, the reckless young archaeologist must seek the help of the only people who know more than he does about taking down the undead: his parents.

The Step Brothers

Fri & Sat 1:15 4:05 7:10 9:35
Sun thru Tue 1:15 4:05 7:10

Will Ferrell, John C. Reilly
Comedy • Rated R

X Files: I Want to Believe

Fri & Sat @ 4:20 @ 9:50
Sun thru Tue @ 4:20 @

David Duchovny, Gillian Anderson
Thriller, Sci-Fi, Supernatural • Rated PG

Dark Knight

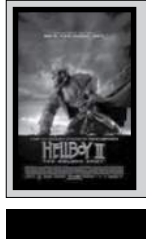
Fri & Sat 1:00 4:00 7:00 10:00
Sun thru Tue 1:00 4:00 7:00

Christian Bale, Heath Ledger
Superhero Film, Action, Fantasy • Rated PG 13

Mamma Mia

Fri & Sat 1:20 4:10 7:20 9:55
Sun thru Tue 1:20 4:10 7:20

Meryl Streep, Pierce Brosnan
Comedy, Musical Romance • Rated G



Hellboy II

Fri & Sat 1:10 @ 7:15 @
Sun thru Tue 1:10 @ 7:15

Selma Blair and Ron Perlman
Monster Film, Action, Fantasy • Rated PG 13

Hancock

Fri & Sat 1:30 4:45 7:30 9:30
Sun thru Tue 1:30 4:45 7:30

Will Smith, Charlize Theron
Action, Comedy • Rated PG 13

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Pop culture and politics can be a tricky mix

By JOCELYN NOVECK
AP NATIONAL WRITER

Pop culture sure moves quickly. Just last week, Paris Hilton was so 20 minutes ago. And John McCain was drawing snickers from pop culture aficionados for choosing her and another relative has-been, Britney Spears, in his attack ad against Barack Obama.

But now, with Hilton's cheeky video riposte to the McCain ad thrusting her back into our collective consciousness, she's current again.

And so the head spins: Does that mean John McCain is now cutting edge?

Maybe. One thing, though, is clear: Politicians have long used pop culture references to bring a little spark to their campaigns, and it's a risky business. When you hit it just right, it can work wonders. But you'd better make sure you're up to date. Otherwise, a campaign can be accused of being, well, so 20 minutes ago.

In seriousness, many have pointed out that McCain's ad, and a second one using Charlton Heston's Moses to mock Obama's soaring rhetoric, amount to a clever trick: turning what are some of Obama's greatest strengths into negatives.

And whether the presumed Republican nominee will benefit in the polls, he's certainly gotten attention. The Project for Excellence in Journalism, which measures media coverage of the candidates, said he managed to virtually tie Obama in press attention the week of July 28-Aug. 3, for the first time since the kickoff of the general election.

But the Spears-Hilton ad, especially, has been roundly criticized for being either unfair, illogical or trivial, and not just by those with Democratic leanings. John Weaver—a former top McCain aide, now estranged from the candidate—has publicly called it "childish" and said: "This tomfoolery needs to stop."

Hilton, though, was game for a little tomfoolery herself.

In her video, posted on the comedy site Funny or Die, the doe-eyed hotel heiress says, "Hey America, I'm Paris Hilton, and I'm a celebrity, too." Since that "wrinkly white-haired guy" put her in one of his ads, she says, lounging in a leopard-print swimsuit with keyhole cutouts and metallic pumps, "I guess that means I'm running for president." She fuses McCain's and Obama's energy talking points into her own succinct hybrid proposal, then announces she's off to find a VP.

All this back-and-forth between a socialite most famous for a jail term and a sex video and the man who might be president could seem, to some, a dangerous blurring of the lines between pop culture and politics. But those who study such things say these lines have long been blurred.

AP

U.S. celebrity heiress Paris Hilton visited Copenhagen International Fashion Fair in Copenhagen, Denmark on Thursday Aug. 7, 2008.

"What we produce in this country more than anything is pop culture," said Todd Boyd, professor of popular culture at USC. It's natural, he said, that the two worlds sometimes merge.

Candidate Bill Clinton knew how valuable it would be to play the saxophone on "The Arsenio Hall Show." And these days, it's a virtual rite of passage for candidates to appear on the late-night shows—sometimes, they even announce their candidacies on them.

They don't simply chat. They duly appear in "Saturday Night Live" skits, read out David Letterman's often humiliating Top Ten lists, or suffer through partisan questioning, in McCain's case, from "Daily Show" host Jon Stewart.

Why do the candidates endure this? It's free attention and airtime, it shows they're somehow "with it," and self-deprecating humor endears them to an audience. Thus, Hillary Rodham Clinton could show her looser side in a Letterman list of the top 10 things she loved about America: "Thanks to the Internet, I can order new pantsuits 24/7—there's your pantsuit joke, Dave. Are you happy now?"

And on "Saturday Night Live" in May, McCain could joke about his age, something he likely wouldn't do in an ad. "What should we be looking for in our next president?" the 71-year-old candidate asked. "Certainly someone who is very, very, very ... old."

But when a politician veers into the attack mode of humor, it's more controversial. "When you get into mockery, that's where you potentially do more harm than good," Kurtzman, of about.com, noted.

McCain himself has defended his recent ads as humorous. Whether he'll do more remains to be seen. But when it comes to pop culture, political humorists suggest he update his references just a bit.

Maybe he can take a page from Paris Hilton's book. Of her VP options, she says in her video, "I'm thinking Rihanna."

Paris-Rihanna '08? That could be cutting edge.

Obama policy book coming out Sept. 9

NEW YORK (AP)—He's written million-selling books about his early years and the meaning of public life. Now, Sen. Barack Obama, with the help of his campaign staff, has another side to share with readers: policy wonk.

"Change We Can Believe In: Barack Obama's Plan to Renew America's Promise" is coming out Sept. 9 as a paperback with an announced first printing of 300,000 copies and a list price of $13.95. Looking ahead to the digital market, the e-book, also $13.95, will go on sale the day before.

"We are proud to have published two best-selling books by Barack Obama and are thrilled to have the opportunity to continue to work with his campaign on such an important and inspiring book at this critical moment in our country," Crown Publishing Group president Jenny Frost said in a statement.

The book will include a foreword by Obama, the Democrats' presumptive presidential nominee, and feature sections—written by members of Obama for America, his presidential campaign—on such issues as health care, energy and national security. "Change We Can Believe In" also compiles some of his better known speeches, including his celebrated talk on race and his recent address in Berlin.

AP

Democratic presidential candidate Sen. Barack Obama, D-Ill., speaks at a welcome to Hawaii rally at Keehi Lagoon Beach Park in Honolulu, Hawaii Friday, Aug. 8, 2008. Sen. Obama is in Hawaii for a vacation.

"Change" will be released by Three Rivers Press, a paperback imprint of Crown Publishing, which published Obama's "Dreams From My Father" and "The Audacity of Hope." According to Obama's literary representative, Washington attorney Robert Barnett, the contract is between Crown and Obama's presidential campaign, not Obama himself. Financial terms were not available, although Barnett says the campaign will donate all net proceeds to a charity still to be determined. The new release was assembled over the past few weeks and is not part of the senator's current deal with Crown, which calls for him to write two more books, including a children's book.

"Change We Can Believe In" will test Obama's appeal. Policy books are rarely hits with the public, although they can be quite useful for candidates, such as Obama, who have been criticized for lacking substance. In 1992, Bill Clinton and running mate Al Gore released "Putting People First," a blueprint for their time in office that became a best seller and remained popular even after they were elected.

Obama's book will have strong competition at stores. It comes out at the same time as Bob Woodward's fourth volume on the Bush administration, one of the fall's most anticipated releases.

Crown is a division of Random House Inc.

Lazenby to dispute Pam Shriver's custody claim

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Former James Bond actor George Lazenby says he will fight Pam Shriver's claim for custody over the couple's three young children.

Shriver, a former tennis star, has filed for divorce from Lazenby and cited "irreconcilable differences" for ending their six-year marriage.

The 68-year-old Lazenby said Sunday through spokesman Michael Sands that he loves his children "very much" and will seek sole legal and physical custody. Shriver has said she will seek custody with supervised visits for Lazenby.

The 46-year-old Shriver won 22 Grand Slam doubles titles and has served as a tennis commentator since retiring.

Lazenby starred as James Bond in "On Her Majesty's Secret Service."

The couple are due in court Aug. 25.

AP

This June 23, 1994 file photo shows Pam Shriver during Wimbledon.

Keith says 'Beer' movie set was all business

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (AP)—One could only imagine the pickin' party they could have thrown on the back lot of Toby Keith's new movie, "Beer for My Horses."

Keith

Keith, Willie Nelson, Ted Nugent, Mel Tillis, David Allan Coe and Rodney Carrington are in the film, a comedy that the 47-year-old singer describes as a tip of the hat to Burt Reynolds' "Smokey and the Bandit" movies and television's "The Andy Griffith Show."

But it wasn't to be. "We didn't have time to pick up one guitar," he told The Associated Press recently. "It was 12-hour shoot days."

"Beer for My Horses," which Keith co-wrote with Carrington and also produced and starred in, opens Friday. Tom Skerritt, Barry Corbin, Gina Gershon and Claire Forlani also star.

The title comes from Keith's 2003 duet with Nelson, a salute to frontier justice that captures the spirit of the movie, in which Keith plays a small town deputy out to bust up a methamphetamine ring and rescue his girlfriend from a Mexican drug lord.

"It's an old Western saying," explains Keith, an Oklahoma native. "I used to work for a rodeo contractor who carried a pint of whiskey in his pocket. At the end of the night, he'd say, 'Whiskey for my men and beer for my horses.' That always stuck with me."

This is Keith's second film but the first he's written and produced. He played a fading country star opposite Kelly Preston in the 2006 drama "Broken Bridges."

After writing so many songs, he figured: Why not try a movie?

"It took 10 months to write. The beauty of the whole thing was watching it come to life," he said. "Tom Skerritt really liked it. He said whoever wrote it knows the South. He said people don't pay attention to the dialogue anymore."

As for his acting, well, Keith knows it's not as good as his singing, but he feels he's improving. It helps hanging out with veterans like Skerritt and Corbin.

"To be working across from them for several days was a thrill for me. I was thinking, 'If they were here writing a song with me and trying to sing and not very good at it, I'd be thinking that they have a long way to go.' I hope they don't feel that way about me, but I'm sure they do."

Long-distance relationship may founder on infidelity

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
FROM UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby

DEAR ABBY: I have been involved in a long-distance relationship for the past year. I'm crazy about him and have been completely faithful to him.

While we were talking on the phone today he asked, "What would you do if I cheated on you?" It came out of the blue, and I realized he was serious! My family and friends believe he has already cheated on me and was feeling guilty. Part of me thinks they may be right. Can you settle my disturbed thoughts?

UNSETTLED IN DERRY, PA.

DEAR UNSETTLED: Long-distance relationships can be especially challenging. When someone asks a question like your boyfriend asked you, it usually means the person has cheated or is considering doing so.

It would be interesting to know how you responded to his question. If it's not too late, tell him, "If you cheated, I would be hurt and disappointed. And if you have already cheated, then it's time we BOTH started seeing other people."

■ ■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: We have lived next door to "The Moochers" for three years. Things have gotten so bad that my husband and I avoid them at all costs, which isn't easy, as they live in close proximity to our home.

If we're on our porch or in the backyard and they see us, they always ask for something. We have been friendly and have helped them in the past, but feel as though our kindness has been mistaken for weakness and we have been taken advantage of.

The Moochers have asked to borrow our outdoor grill, pieces of our living room furniture, toys for their grandchildren to play with, permission to hang their laundry on our clothesline (which we have since removed), and have even asked for Christmas ornaments right off our tree!

Since we have started avoiding them, we have gotten a bad reputation in our neighborhood as being "unfriendly." We have asked them to return our grill, but they actually refused, saying it was GIVEN to them with a smile.

We would love some advice.

MISUNDERSTOOD NEIGHBORS IN PENNSYLVANIA

DEAR MISUNDERSTOOD: It's time to start doing a little public relations work of your own. If you are on speaking terms with any of your other neighbors, tell them what has happened and why you and your husband now avoid The Moochers. From my perspective, they appear to be peculiar bordering on the eccentric, not to mention extremely nervy. Avoiding them is your best defense, unless you're planning on moving.

■ ■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: Is it poor manners for people to leave an event, concert, show or graduation before the final piece is played or spoken because they want to avoid the crowd or traffic at the conclusion?

It annoys me, and I'd like to know if my view is justified.

ANNOYED IN MARYLAND

DEAR ANNOYED: If someone has paid admission to an event, concert or show and wishes to leave before the end, it is his/her privilege (or loss, depending on how you view it). However, in the case of a graduation or other ceremony in which people are being honored, good manners dictate that attendees stay until the last honor is bestowed and the last achievement is recognized.

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

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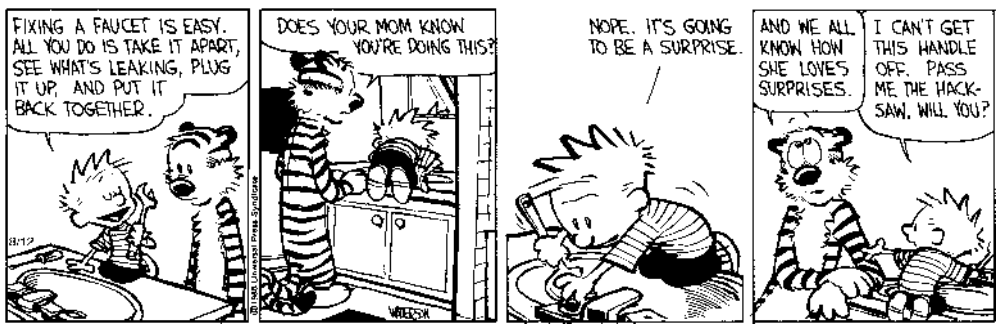
Pastimes

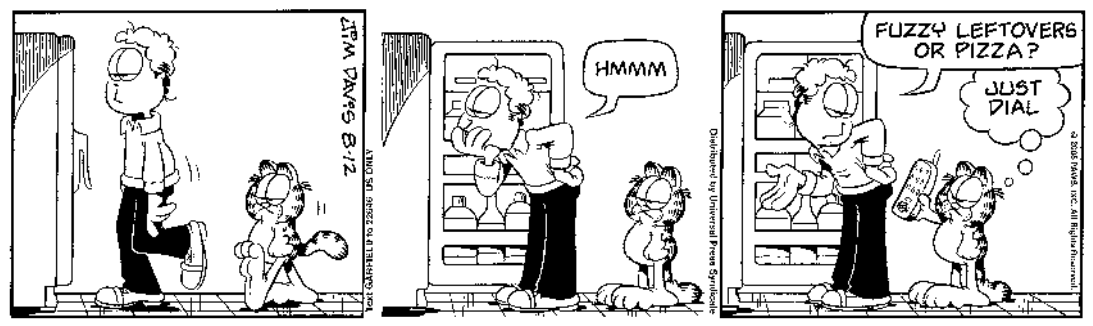
Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson


FIXING A FAUCET IS EASY. ALL YOU DO IS TAKE IT APART, SEE WHAT'S LEAKING, PLUG IT UP, AND PUT IT BACK TOGETHER.
DOES YOUR MOM KNOW YOU'RE DOING THIS?
NOPE. IT'S GOING TO BE A SURPRISE.
AND WE ALL KNOW HOW SHE LOVES SURPRISES.
I CAN'T GET THIS HANDLE OFF. PASS ME THE HACK-SAW, WILL YOU?

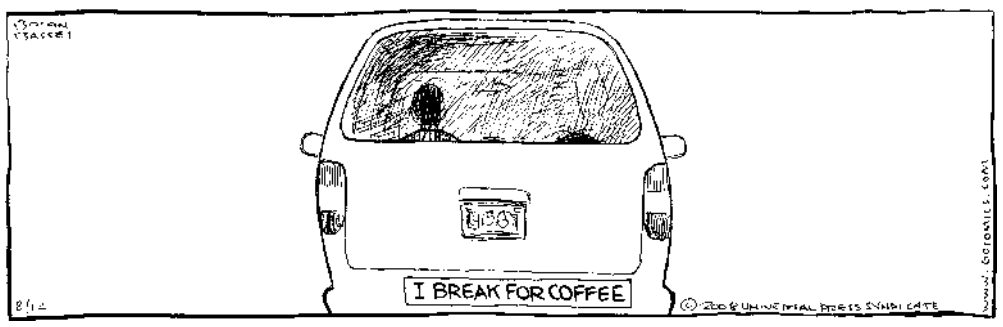
Garfield®

By Jim Davis



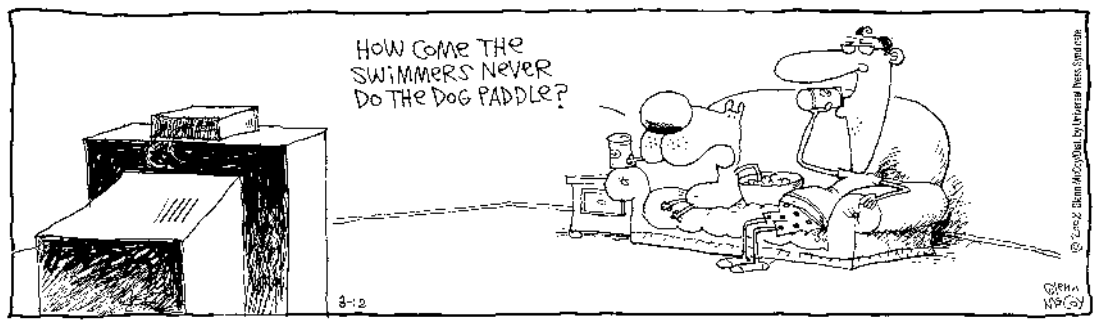
Adam@home

By Bryan Basset



The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy



CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

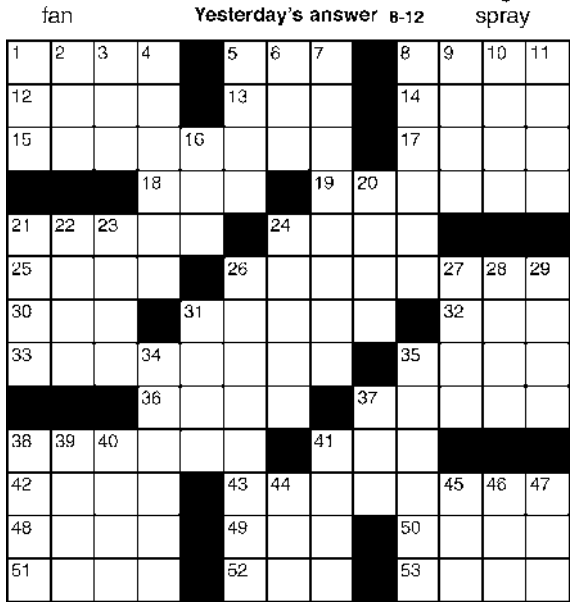
ACROSS
1 Jason's ship
5 Tibetan beast
8 Hurried
12 Actress Jessica
13 — out a living
14 Therefore
15 Chris Martin's band
17 Bellow
18 With it
19 Snifter contents
21 19th Amendment beneficiary
24 Young horse
25 Last notice
26 Defend yourself, possum-style
30 Sinbad's bird
31 Jurors, e.g.
32 Pair
33 Jerry Garcia fan
35 Think (over)
36 Tears
37 The 24 in "36-24-36"
38 Thread holders
41 Foundation
42 Matador's opponent
43 Common ailment
48 Memo abbr.
49 Sphere
50 Very eager
51 Depend (on)
52 Method
53 History

DOWN
1 Regis and Kelly's network
2 Carnival city
3 Solidify
4 Trite
5 Shrill bark
6 Alias abbr.
7 QWERTY, for instance
8 Boston newspaper
9 Press
10 "Zounds!"
11 Flat-bottomed boat
16 Brooch
20 Beams of light
21 Information
22 Reed instrument
23 Isinglass
24 Dog bane
26 XXX-rated entertainment
27 Needle case
28 Puncturing tools
29 Lummox
31 Dr. McGraw
34 Flaccid
35 Wild and crazy
37 Marry
38 Constellation component
39 Sit for a snapshot
40 Verbal
41 Infant
44 Mound stat
45 Eggs
46 Fleur-de- —
47 Banned bug spray

Solution time: 21 mins.

A	S	K	■	F	A	I	_	S	■	E	R	A
B	I	O	■	U	P	B	O	W	■	V	A	N
E	X	O	N	E	R	A	T	E	■	A	C	T
■	■	■	A	L	I	■	T	A	I	P	E	I
Q	U	E	B	E	C	■	O	T	T	O	■	■
U	R	L	■	D	O	A	■	S	C	R	A	M
A	G	A	R	■	T	R	I	■	H	A	L	E
D	E	B	■	T	■	M	M	E	■	T	E	E
■	■	O	O	H	S	■	P	R	I	E	S	T
S	A	R	■	R	E	■	A	E	C	■	■	■
C	I	A	■	E	N	J	N	C	I	A	T	E
A	B	I	■	A	S	S	E	J	■	D	A	B
B	Y	E	■	D	E	A	_	S	■	S	U	B

Yesterday's answer 8-12



STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955**! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Dominique Swain, 28; Pete Sampras, 37; Peter Krause, 43; George Hamilton, 69

Happy Birthday: Stop being so hard on yourself and schedule in some rest and relaxation. Activities that challenge but stimulate and motivate you will also encourage you to try new ways to get ahead professionally. There is change heading your way financially but it's the conservative approach that will land you more cash. Your numbers are 3, 18, 21, 33, 38, 41

ARIES (*March 21-April 19*): Stick to business—if you venture down a personal path you will experience problems. Be professional, hardworking and serious about what you do. Someone you know may try to include you in a scandal. Put an end to it before it turns ugly. ✪✪

TAURUS (*April 20-May 20*): Someone may lead you astray but you'll catch on and show how clever you are. Love and romance are highlighted and can result in making some hefty decisions. Don't rule out any proposal or opportunity that is mentioned. ✪✪✪✪✪

GEMINI (*May 21-June 20*): Being abrasive or forceful will backfire. Consider how you can manipulate the situation by doing something totally out of character. It's the element of surprise that will save you today. Don't base your actions on hearsay. ✪✪✪

CANCER (*June 21-July 22*): Embrace change and you will end up much further ahead. Someone you have to deal with will be jealous and will try to make you look bad. Love is in the stars, so put time aside for that special person in your life or get out and meet someone new. ✪✪✪

LEO (*July 23-Aug. 22*): You'll be the star of the show no matter what you do today. Your insight into work-related problems will help you win favors. Your desire to play hard at whatever you challenge yourself with may lead to a minor injury if you aren't careful. ✪✪✪✪✪

VIRGO (*Aug. 23-Sept. 22*): Someone will try to dismantle your plans but, if you are organized, it won't be possible. It will, however, allow you to see who is for you and who is against you. Expect a change in one of your partnerships. ✪✪

LIBRA (*Sept. 23-Oct. 22*): Someone may try to broadside you with questions you aren't prepared to answer. Keep moving, help others and do your best to avoid anyone who can influence your position, direction or personal life. ✪✪

SCORPIO (*Oct. 23-Nov. 21*): Step things up a notch or two and you will see how quickly everyone jumps on your bandwagon. A chance to do something special will be a direct result of someone from your past passing your name along. Don't feel you owe anyone for help. ✪✪✪✪

SAGITTARIUS (*Nov. 22-Dec. 21*): Trouble is brewing. Don't get caught in a lie or doing something that goes against the rules. Exaggerating or changing the facts even a little will come back to haunt you. Stick to what you know. ✪✪✪

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN (*Dec. 22-Jan. 19*): Give your all to whatever goal you are trying to achieve. If you push hard now, you will end up with more than you expected. There is money to be made and lots of perks are heading your way. ✪✪✪

AQUARIUS (*Jan. 20-Feb. 18*): Look for partnerships that will contribute to your plans for the future. If you have to push someone to help, he or she isn't the right person. Trying something new or joining a cause will bring you in contact with someone special. ✪✪✪

PISCES (*Feb. 19-March 20*): A partnership will lead to a change in the way you do things and your status in society. Stay calm, even if you are anxious about the future. Being laid-back and easygoing will help you win the position you are intent on landing. ✪✪✪✪

Birthday Baby: You are articulate, intelligent, aggressive, emotional and quick to react. You are adaptable, unpredictable and often secretive.

Eugenia's Web sites: ***astroadvice.com*** *for fun,* ***eugenialast.com*** *for confidential consultations*

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

8			5		6			3
	4		2	9	8		1	
1		8		4		9		6
		9	8		1	4		
4		2		3		1		7
	3		6	8	4		2	
2			3		7			8

Difficulty Level ★★ 8/12

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's SUDOKU Answer

4	9	1	2	7	5	8	6	3
8	2	3	6	1	4	5	9	7
6	7	5	8	3	9	1	2	4
5	3	2	9	4	8	7	1	6
9	6	7	1	5	2	3	4	8
1	4	8	3	6	7	9	5	2
3	5	9	4	8	6	2	7	1
7	1	4	5	2	3	6	8	9
2	8	6	7	9	1	4	3	5

Difficulty Level ★ 8/11

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WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find them and **CIRCLE THEIR LETTERS ONLY. DO NOT CIRCLE THE WORD.** The leftover letters spell the Wonderword.

THE NEW JAMES BOND **Solution: 6 letters**

C	T	N	E	R	R	U	C	M	U	T	N	A	U	Q
H	L	(L)	(O)	(O)	(C)	F	I	L	M	S	E	N	I	L
A	A	O	Y	M	E	D	A	C	A	C	T	I	O	N
R	I	M	T	U	L	O	O	S	E	H	G	U	O	T
M	S	E	E	H	N	B	E	H	T	P	E	D	T	N
T	R	U	C	N	E	R	O	L	E	S	T	O	O	A
N	E	Q	L	A	I	S	E	R	E	R	C	I	E	D
E	V	I	O	E	L	C	F	D	A	Y	T	G	E	V
M	O	N	S	E	A	O	U	T	O	I	A	W	T	E
E	R	U	V	S	R	T	S	B	S	M	E	C	N	N
T	T	O	I	M	I	E	N	O	I	N	L	I	E	T
I	N	N	A	T	R	D	P	E	E	V	A	S	S	U
C	O	N	T	E	M	P	O	R	A	R	Y	U	E	R
X	C	A	C	T	O	R	S	E	I	V	O	M	R	E
E	V	I	S	S	E	R	G	O	R	P	R	O	P	S

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Academy, Action, Actor, Adventures, Attitude, Boycott, Casino, Charm, Cinema, Clothes, Contemporary, Controversial, Cool, Current, Depth, Excitement, Films, Humor, Image, Lines, Loose, Modern, Movies, Music, Novels, Opposition, Performance, Present, Progressive, Props, Quantum, Renewed, Restart, Roles, Royale, Save, Series, Solace, Tough, Unique

Yesterday's Answer: European

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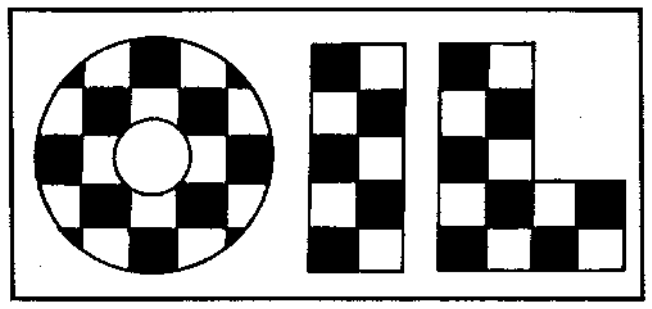
Find the familiar phrase, saying or name in this arrangement of letters.



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Harrington wins PGA for 2nd straight major

BLOOMFIELD TOWNSHIP, Mich. (AP)—Padraig Harrington isn't interested in sentimental story lines that keep popping up at the majors. He's too busy winning them, and writing his name into the history books.

First came the British Open, where he ended a fairy tale for Greg Norman with a 32 on the back nine of Royal Birkdale. Then came the PGA Championship, where even Harrington could sense destiny on the side of Sergio Garcia.

It turned out to be a familiar story Sunday - and for Garcia, a familiar finish.

Three shots behind at the turn, Harrington again shot a 32 on the back nine thanks to three putts that major champions make - a 12-footer for par on the 16th to tie, a 10-footer at No. 17 to take the lead and a 15-foot par putt at the end that set off another celebration.

Harrington closed with a 4-under 66 at Oakland Hills for a two-shot victory over Garcia and Ben Curtis to become only the fourth player to win the British Open and the PGA Championship in the same year.

Along the way, he ended 78 years without a European winner at the PGA Championship. And to top it off, he became the first European ever to win consecutive majors.

"I obviously hold a lot of European players who I grew up watching in high esteem," Harrington said. "To believe that I achieved something they hadn't is very special."

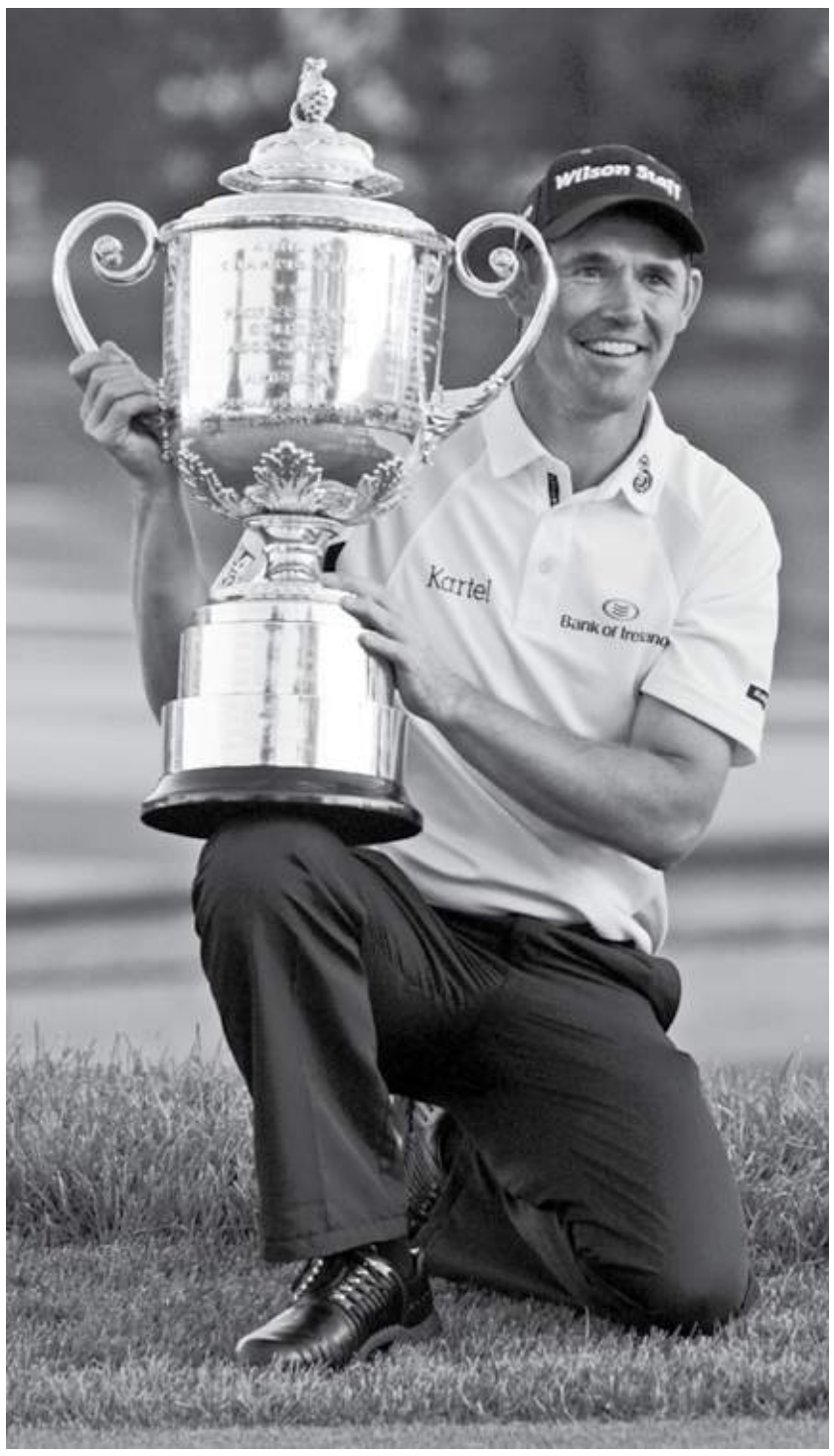
He showed no regard for one of his own for the second straight year.

Garcia ran his record to 0-38 in the majors, right when the 28-year-old Spaniard felt it was all coming together. He had a one-shot lead and was in the middle of the 16th fairway when he hit into the water and had to scramble for bogey. Then he missed a 4-foot birdie on the 17th to match Harrington. And he could only watch—again—as Harrington knocked in a par on the last.

"I have no regrets of anything I did out there," Garcia said.

Harrington talked about going to another level after winning the British Open, and he wound up in elite company a month later. He joined Tiger Woods (2000 and 2006), Nick Price (1994) and Walter Hagen (1924) as the only players to win the PGA and British Open in the same year. And he now has won three of the last six majors, accumulating them at a rate only Woods can appreciate over the last 25 years.

"That's Tiger-like, right there," Curtis said.



AP

Padraig Harrington, of Ireland, holds the Wanamaker Trophy after winning the 90th PGA Championship golf tournament Sunday, Aug. 10, 2008, at Oakland Hills Country Club in Bloomfield Township, Mich.

Woods, who missed his second straight major after season-ending knee surgery, could have appreciated Harrington's clutch performance. Even more impressive was how he kept his cool, rarely showing emotion over key putts until the final one dropped.

Harrington pumped his fist twice, then a third time for effect.

Moments later, after Curtis failed to hole his shot from the fairway, he was holding son Patrick by his heels in a family moment and hoisting the Wanamaker Trophy for another major victory.

Harrington finished at 3-under 277 and earned $1.35 million.

Curtis lost a chance to validate his shocking victory in the 2003 British Open. He bogeyed two of the final four holes for a 71, but came away with a big consolation. His tie for second was enough to move him up to No. 7 in the U.S. standings and qualify for the Ryder Cup.

"It's almost a victory in itself," Curtis said.

Garcia moved to No. 3 in the European standings and sewed up a spot on his fifth straight team.

Harrington wasn't even in the picture Sunday morning when players returned to Oakland Hills to resume the weather-delayed third round, some of them playing 36 holes. He was 4 over after nine holes, then ran off four straight birdies on the back nine for a 66 to get into contention going into the final 18.

With another major at stake under gloomy skies, Harrington simply shined.

And for the second straight year, Garcia suffered.

Harrington rallied from six shots behind last year to beat Garcia in a playoff at Carnoustie. This time, he spotted the Spaniard three shots when they made the turn and made four birdies over the back nine.

Garcia accepted defeat far more graciously than at Carnoustie, although he was terse when asked if he sensed he would win his first major as he headed to the back nine after two tremendous par saves.

"Next question, please," he said. "Let's try to keep this as positive as we can, please."

J.B. Holmes, who had a one-shot lead when he arrived Sunday morning to play the final 36 holes, was one shot behind going into the final round and collapsed in a hurry with a triple bogey. He shot 81.

Boo Weekley closed with a 66 to finish at No. 8 in the standings and earn his first trip to the Ryder Cup.

Woods is the only other player to win so many majors so quickly in the last 25 years—the U.S. Open in June made him 4-of-8 until the surgery.

Trying to play it safe after Garcia went into the water on the 16th, Harrington pulled his approach into the bunker and blasted out some 12 feet beyond the cup, leaving himself a putt with about 2 feet of break. He made it for par, then hit 5-iron to 8 feet on the 17th for one of only four birdies there in the final round.

As well as Harrington played, however, Garcia had a hand in his victory.

He chunked a chip short of the par-5 12th green that made him settle for par. His 6-iron to the 15th flew into the cup on the fly and bounced out, leaving him a 10-foot birdie putt that never had a chance. And after answering Harrington with a tee shot to 4 feet on the 17th, he couldn't match his birdie. Garcia's putt was left all the way, catching the lip and spinning away.

The other member of the threesome was Charlie Wi, playing in his first major.

"I turned to my caddie on 16 and said, 'God, this is a lot of fun just to watch,'" said Wi, who shot 74 and tied for ninth.

Curtis shot 68 in the morning to finish his third round at 2-under 208 for his first 54-hole lead in a major. He was the only player to reach 4 under on the weekend with a two-putt birdie on No. 6, where the tees were moved up to make the hole play 294 yards. He had three solid par saves on the front, but none on the back when it mattered.

He was tied for lead after a 10-foot birdie on the 14th, but pulled his drive on the 15th and made bogey, then watched his tee shot on the 17th land too hard and roll into a clump of rough behind the green, leading to another bogey.

Favre cheered on penalty lap at 2nd Jets practice

HEMPSTEAD, N.Y. (AP)—Even Brett Favre isn't immune to some punishment at practice.

The New York Jets quarterback fumbled a snap from Nick Mangold on Sunday morning and knew what was coming next: his first penalty lap.

"He's one of the guys," coach Eric Mangini said. "You put the ball on the ground, you have to run. And that's the way, when we talked about it, he wanted it and that's the way I wanted it."

So, there was No. 4 at his second practice with the Jets, jogging along the sideline with Mangold - to hearty cheers from the 4,000 fans there to catch a glimpse of their new quarterback. Favre was given the day off from speaking to the media, but commented through the team.

"It's not punishment," said Favre, who couldn't recall if he had ever run a penalty lap in his previous 17 seasons. "It's more of a team unity thing. Nick and I ran it. I told Eric, Day 1, that unless I pass out, I am going to try to do everything that everyone else does.

"I'm no different aside from being a little gray-headed and a little bit older."

Sure, Brett. But it might have been the NFL's first penalty lap to draw cheers.

"We missed on the exchange," Mangold said. "You get used to a new guy and it takes a little bit of time and usually you get the luxury of doing it in the spring where no one's really around or cheering for laps."

Video of the disciplinary jog was already posted on the Internet an hour after the morning practice ended and had gotten over 200 hits on YouTube.

"I need to call my mom and have her tape ESPN," Mangold said with a chuckle. "Hopefully I got on there today with a penalty lap. It was weird because it's a penalty lap and you're running it because you've done something wrong and people are cheering. It was a little different."

Mangold, who worked mostly with Kellen Clemens and Chad Pennington during his first two NFL seasons, said quarterbacks and centers have to adjust to each other when they first start working together.

"There's a good amount that goes on," he said. "You have to get used to a guy's voice, his placement of his hands, how quickly he's getting out. You try to make it look as effortless as possible."

Mangold asked Favre if he was at fault for the wayward snap.

"He made me feel good and said, 'No,'" Mangold said. "I don't believe him."

Either way, Favre took it all in stride.

"I'm not embarrassed by it," he said. "I think it's kind of funny, but yet serves its purpose. I think things like that are important in the fact that everyone is involved in it."

The crowd at Hofstra University was scaled down from Favre's first practice Saturday, which drew 10,500 fans, but was still double what the team usually attracts for a Sunday morning practice.

"It makes it fun," safety Kerry Rhodes said. "When you come out here and the fans are going crazy and having fun, it just helps you get through the day."

Favre, acquired late Wednesday night from Green Bay, gave the fans a few things to cheer about other than his long jog. He zipped a 15-yard pass into the hands of Laveranues Coles and hit Jerricho Cotchery for 35 yards on a go-route down the right sideline. The biggest cheers were for a pretty, long spiral that hit Cotchery in stride down the left sideline for 75 yards, about 65 yards in the air.

"There's going to be an adjustment for us," Cotchery said. "We've just got to make sure we're handling everything around him so we have the chemistry we need to have before the season starts."

In between Sunday's two practices, Mangini was asked for his assessment of Favre.

"The ball comes out hard and fast and straight and long, so that's always good," he said with a smile. "It's been a whirlwind for him and there's a lot of new information going in. We're progressing quickly."

Favre hadn't run the hurry-up offense yet; that will come later as the quarterback becomes more familiar with the system. Mangini also has cut down, for now, on the loud music he plays during practice to simulate crowd noise "until I can see the cadence and see the mechanics."

Mangini understands the excitement surrounding the acquisition of Favre, and worked some humor into his opening remarks for those dying to know the quarterback's every move.

"Brett had his two hard-boiled eggs, a little bit of orange juice," Mangini said with the slightest grin. "There was a garnish, I think, and some hashbrowns. And I can take you through minute-by-minute after that."

Hold on, Coach. Don't leave everyone hanging. What did Favre eat first?

"It was a tough call," Mangini said, smiling. "The eggs were mixed with the hashbrowns, so I don't know which one actually hit his mouth first. I'll film it next time."

US routs host China 101-70 in Olympic opener

By BRIAN MAHONEY
AP BASKETBALL WRITER

BEIJING (AP)—This was the stuff a Dream Team is made of. Acrobatic moves, reverse slams and tomahawk dunks. Who needs outside shooting? Just toss it up and throw it down. The United States opened its campaign for Olympic basketball redemption Sunday with a 101-70 rout of host China that had even the home crowd oohing and aahing.

Dwyane Wade lobbed one up to LeBron James on a fastbreak, James caught it in midair with one hand and in one motion, slammed it home.

Kobe Bryant drove to the basket a couple of times for tomahawk dunks, sending the crowd into a frenzy each time.

And not to be outdone, Wade had a behind-the-head, back-to-the-basket two-handed dunk of his own.

This wasn't a game, this was a spectacle.

And the fans, including President Bush, got what they came to see.

"Look, I had five dunks in one game. That's because of the crowd. Last time I had five dunks in a game I was like 17. So that's all because of the energy in this crowd," Bryant said. "I think they knew that history was being made tonight and obviously it was a proud moment for their country as it was for ours. You could feel the electricity."

Wade scored 19 points and James had 18 for the Americans. Bryant finished with 13 points.

But the score didn't matter in this

AP
China center Yao Ming, right, defends against Team USA guard LeBron James during the first quarter of their men's preliminary basketball game at the Beijing 2008 Olympics in Beijing, Sunday, Aug. 10, 2008.

All-Star game setting.

"It was our first game. We were very anxious. We missed shots that we normally would hit. But at the end of the day, you win by almost 30 points, you've got to take good things out of that," Wade said. "We played very, very hard. We give ourselves a chance defensively every night. That's what it's all about with us."

China's Yao Ming, All-Star center for the Houston Rockets, started the showcase by drilling a 3-pointer from the top of the key for the first score of the game.

The Americans made 21 of their first 25 shots inside the 3-point arc, though they had another inept night behind it. Still, with James, Wade and Bryant repeatedly getting out on the break, the poor 3-point shooting wasn't a problem on this night.

"We came out a little tight. We knew that it was going to be a very emotional game for both teams, especially China, playing in front of their home crowd," U.S. forward Chris Bosh said. "We withstood the storm, we calmed down and we just played a lot better basketball."

NBA players are wildly popular in China, where the league estimates 300 million people play basketball. The Americans, still known as the Dream Team here, enjoyed a huge backing during exhibition games in Macau and Shanghai, support that will surely help them here on their gold-medal quest.

Bush came out first, walking to his seat above center court about a half hour before the 10:15 start. He was still shaking hands and slapping five with fans around him minutes later when Yao, back from season-ending foot surgery in March, led China's players onto the floor to a thunderous ovation.

Fans throughout the arena chanted "Jia You! Jia You!" (Let's go!) and cheered plays on both ends. There was nothing resembling a boo until the referees called Yao for a blocking foul, instead of the charge he hoped for, on a basket by James almost 5 minutes into the game.

Yao's 3-pointer to start the game sent the crowd back into a frenzy and China stayed in the game for a while by hitting from behind the arc. The Chinese hit eight of their first 12 attempts, with Sun Yue's 3 tying it at 29 with 6:09 remaining in the second quarter.

"Maybe this was our biggest mistake, that we think on the floor that this can be continued, you know?" coach Jonas Kazlauskas said of his players, who cooled off to finish 10-of-27 behind the arc.

The Americans then started forcing turnovers by China's smaller guards—long the team's Achilles' heel—and broke open the game with a series of layups and dunks. That helped the U.S. score 10 straight, highlighted by James' spectacular one-handed slam of Wade's alley-oop pass, to build a 45-32 lead with under 2 minutes left in the half.

The lead reached 20 when Wade hit two free throws with 2:39 remaining in the third quarter, and the U.S. team kept building on it from there. Michael Redd's 3-pointer with 6:54 to play made it 84-50 and sent Bush and his family to the exits.

Yao checked out about 2 minutes later, raising a fist to the appreciative fans who were still cheering even in the blowout.

The Americans face Angola on Tuesday. Things don't get any easier for the Chinese, who face world champion Spain.

Rays set another record in remarkable season with 71st win

SEATTLE (AP)—Willy Aybar and Shawn Riggans hit three-run homers for the Tampa Bay Rays to set a franchise record with their 71st win in an 11-3 rout of the Seattle Mariners in the American League on Sunday.

Tampa Bay's previous best record came in 2004 when it finished the season 70-92. After taking three of four in Seattle, the Rays are 71-46 and own a 4 1/2-game lead over Boston in the AL East, their largest advantage since July 6.

And on the day the Rays learned they'll be without outfield star Carl Crawford for at least two weeks, and possibly longer, it was again everyone in Tampa Bay's lineup chipping in.

No. 8 hitter Aybar had two home runs for the first multi-homer game of his career.

No. 9 Riggans came through with two outs in the fifth, hitting a pitch by R.A. Dickey (3-7) over the hand-operated scoreboard in left for his fifth homer of the season.

Angels 4, Yankees 3

At Anaheim, California, Chone Figgins hit a RBI single with one out in the ninth inning against Yankees closer Mariano Rivera, and Los Angeles completed a three-game sweep of New York.

Howie Kendrick led off the ninth with a single against Damaso Marte (0-2). After Gary Matthews Jr. struck out, Marte walked Mike Napoli and Figgins grounded Rivera's first pitch into right field to end it.

White Sox 6, Red Sox 5

At Chicago, Carlos Quentin hit his AL-leading 32nd homer, Jim Thome and Jermaine Dye connected, and Chicago beat Boston.

Gavin Floyd (12-6) got the win even though he struggled at times, allowing five runs and seven hits while striking out six in 5 1-3 innings.

Indians 4, Blue Jays 0

At Toronto, Cliff Lee worked eight shutout innings for his AL-leading 16th win and Cleveland completed a three-game sweep of Toronto.

Lee (16-2) lowered his ERA to 2.45, moving him ahead of Oakland's Justin Duchscherer (2.51) for the major league lead. He won his fifth straight decision and has not lost since July 6.

Tigers 6, Athletics 1

At Detroit, Nate Robertson won for the first time in more than six weeks, allowing five hits pitching into the eighth inning to lift Detroit over Oakland.

Curtis Granderson homered and Magglio Ordonez drove in two runs for Detroit, which took two of three from the A's. Oakland has lost 12 of its last 13.

Robertson (7-8) allowed a walk and one run, striking out five in 7 2-3 innings to win for the first time since June 21.

Rangers 15, Orioles 7

At Baltimore, Ian Kinsler broke out of an extended slump with a career-high five hits, including a homer, and Texas emphatically ended its own offensive drought.

Held to one run in their previous three games, the Rangers matched their season high with 20 hits. Kinsler led the charge, scoring three runs and collecting three RBIs.

Royals 5, Twins 4, 12 innings

At Kansas City, Missouri, Tony Pena Jr. broke out of a slump at just the right time, driving in Mark Teahen with the winning run for Kansas City.

Pena snapped an 0-for-17 drought with a one-out single in the 11th, then followed Teahen's double with another base hit in the 12th.

Cubs 6, Cardinals 2

At Chicago, Ryan Dempster earned his 13th win and the Chicago Cubs beat St. Louis in a National League game in which Cardinals starter Chris Carpenter left with another injury.

Ronny Cedeno's double capped a five-run sixth inning for the Cubs. Carpenter, making his third start since opening day last year, left the game during the inning with a strained right triceps. The 2005 NL Cy Young Award winner underwent elbow ligament replacement surgery in July 2007.

Diamondbacks 6, Braves 1

At Phoenix, Brandon Webb threw six strong innings for his major league-leading 17th win and also hit a two-run double for Arizona against Atlanta.

Chris Snyder homered for the Diamondbacks, who snapped a four-game losing streak to remain in first place in the NL West.

Webb (17-4) was effective if not sharp, allowing one run and six hits over six innings with five strikeouts.

Giants 5, Dodgers 4

At San Francisco, Aaron Rowand scored from third on Eugenio Velez's infield single, and San Francisco rallied past Los Angeles for the second straight game.

Kuo Hong-chih allowed back-to-back singles to open the ninth, then got pinch-hitter Omar Vizquel to foul out to the catcher. Jose Castillo reached on an error by Los Angeles third baseman Casey Blake to load the bases.

Emmanuel Burris followed with an infield grounder, beating the throw to first from shortstop Angel Berroa and allowing Randy Winn to score. Velez's two-out single went through the legs of Kuo and bounced off the glove of Berroa, sending Rowand home.

Padres 16, Rockies 7

At Denver, San Diego hit four home runs, Brian Giles and Adrian Gonzalez finished with four hits each and the Padres spoiled Livan Hernandez's return to the NL.

Jody Gerut, Kevin Kouzmanoff and Giles homered in the third, and Luke Carlin added his first major league home run.

Brad Hawpe homered for Colorado, which lost five of seven to Washington and San Diego on this homestand, two of the worst road teams in MLB.

Brewers 5, Nationals 4, 13 innings

At Milwaukee, Gabe Kapler homered off the pole in left leading off the 13th inning and Milwaukee came back from a late three-run deficit to beat Washington.

Kapler's shot off Luis Ayala (1-8) gave Milwaukee its fifth consecutive victory.

The Brewers had chances to end it earlier, but stranded the winning run on second base in the ninth and 11th innings, and left the bases loaded in the 10th.

Phillies 6, Pirates 3

At Philadelphia, Chase Utley hit a tie-breaking homer, and Philadelphia went on to beat Pittsburgh and move two games ahead of the New York Mets in the NL East.

Greg Dobbs added his major league-leading 21st pinch hit with an RBI double, setting a new club record. Dobbs is 21-for-51 as a pinch-hitter this season.

Marlins 8, Mets 2

At New York, Josh Johnson stifled the Mets for seven innings, Dan Uggla had two doubles and three RBIs and Florida roughed up Mike Pelfrey to avoid a three-game sweep.

Luis Gonzalez and Mike Jacobs each homered in support of Johnson (3-0), who gave up two runs and five hits.

Astros 13, Reds 4

At Cincinnati, Michael Bourn homered and drove in a career-high four runs, Lance Berkman and Geoff Blum also went deep and Houston rolled to its easiest win of the year.

Houston set season-highs for runs, extra-base hits and winning margin, while posting its eighth victory in the last 10 games.

CNMI

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Mu'amoholeva (6-2, 6-0) and Vosa (6-0, 6-0).

Minor also crushed her competition in the girls' 13-under after she dominated Simuko Afemui of Tonga in a score of 6-0, 6-0 in Pool B. Lorish Pulupene of PNG also won against Afemui, 6-0, 6-2.

Miller and Rafael Jones are also off to great starts in their respective pools in the boys' 13-under.

Jones defeated John Martin Kaiulo of PNG, 6-1, 6-3, and Darshal Patel of Fiji, 6-0, 6-0, in Pool A, while Miller skunked Tushant Patel of Fiji, 6-0, 6-0, and outlasted Cook Islands' Alex Beddoes, 6-0, 2-6, 6-1.

Other Pool A action in the age group saw Christian Duchnak of American Samoa beat Patel, 6-0, 6-0, and Kaiulo, 6-2, 6-2. Pool B, meanwhile, saw PNG's Robin Morove defeat Beddoes, 6-0, 3-6, 6-2, and Patel, 6-0, 6-0.

The only loss absorbed by CNMI junior netters in Day 1 of competition at the Robin Mitchell Regional Tennis Centre was when Dina Jones lost to Leilani Duchnak of American Samoa in Pool D of the girls' 18-under.

Jones, however, rebounded nicely from that 1-6, 2-6 loss when she toughed it out and won over Alyssa Hawkins of Federated States of Micronesia in a 6-4, 4-6, 7-5 marathon.

Other results of Pool D in the division saw Zinnia Leamana of Solomon Islands defeat Hawkins, 6-1, 6-1, and Duchnak, 6-2, 6-2.

The CNMI junior netters are accompanied in the 208 POJC tournament by the Commonwealth's longtime national tennis coach Jeff Race, who also used to serve as captain of the Pacific Oceania Davis Cup team. The 2008 POJC will run from Aug. 11 to 15 at the International Tennis Federation's regional training center.

WHAT

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figured this is the one opportunity in my whole career to do that."

Watching on deck, Phelps let out a resounding "Yeaaaaaah!" and thrust both arms toward the roof of the Water Cube. His quest to break Mark Spitz's record of seven gold medals had survived what will likely be its toughest test—and almost certainly its most thrilling.

The Americans shattered the world record set by their "B" team the previous evening in the preliminaries, touching with a time of 3 minute, 8.24 seconds—nearly 4 full seconds below the 15-hour-old mark of 3:12.23.

"Unbelievable," said Phelps, who swam the leadoff leg and then became the team's biggest cheerleader. "Jason finished that race better than we could even ask for. I was fired up. Going into that last 50, I was like, `Aw, this is going to be a close race.' Jason's last 10 or 15 meters were incredible."

The Americans won the relay at seven straight Olympics, but watched the Australians and South Africans take gold at the last two games.

"You could tell I was pretty excited," Phelps said. "I lost my voice and I was definitely pretty emotional out there."

Bernard was the world record holder in the 100, but he surrendered that mark as well. Australia's Eamon Sullivan broke the individual record by swimming the leadoff leg in 47.24—ahead of Bernard's mark of 47.50.

Oh, by the way, Phelps set an American record leading off, 47.51. But it was Lezak's anchor that everyone will remember. He got down and back in a staggering 46.06, the fastest relay leg in history though it doesn't count as an official record.

"Experience was better than talent," France's Frederick Bousquet said.

Lezak looked at the scoreboard, then leaped out of the water with an emphatic fist pump.

"I knew I was going to have to swim out of my mind," Lezak said. "Still right now, I'm in disbelief."

Garrett Weber-Gale and Cullen Jones also did their parts on the middle legs of the relay, overcoming the enormous pressure of making sure they didn't mess up Phelps' attempt to take down the Holy Grail of Olympic records. Jones was the only holdover from the team that swam in the prelims.

Lezak should get a share of that $1 million bonus that Phelps has been promised if he goes on to beat Spitz's mark.

"I never lost hope," said Lezak, who trains alone but has been a longtime stalwart on the relay team. "I don't know how I was able to take it back that fast, because I've never been able to come anywhere near that for the last 50."

While the Americans whooped it up on deck, Bernard clung to the wall, his head down. The swimmer who had talked confidently of beating the Americans—"smashing" them, some media reported—was the last one to leave the pool.

The French were second in 3:08.32—eight one-hundredths of a second behind. Australia took the bronze in 3:09.91. In fact, the top five all went below the record set Sunday.

"I felt I was in the lead," Bernard said. "I knew I had to accelerate, but it got harder."

The Americans also were on the losing end of a last-lap comeback.

Katie Hoff was again denied a gold medal when Rebecca Adlington of Britain rallied over the final 50 meters to overtake the 19-year-old, who had settled for a bronze the previous day in the 400 individual medley.

Adlington won in 4:03.22, while Hoff took the silver in 4:03.29. Adlington's teammate Joanne Jackson earned the bronze in 4:03.52. Defending champion Laure Manaudou finished last in the eight-woman final.

"I saw Katie and thought, 'Let's just try to catch her,'" Adlington said. "That's what I did."

Hoff still has three more individual events, plus a relay.

"I was a little disappointed I was so close," she said. "But I got a bronze yesterday and a silver this morning. If I keep climbing at this pace, I'll be happy."

President Bush was back at the Water Cube for the second day in a row, with wife Laura on one side, daughter Barbara on the other. Former Republican presidential candidate Mitt Romney and his wife were sitting in front of them, and Bill Gates was right behind.

Clearly, the swimming record book will need some heavy revisions by the time the Beijing Olympics are over.

Two more world marks fell Monday morning when Kosuke Kitajima of Japan finished off American Brendan Hansen's hopes of an individual medal, winning the 100 breaststroke in 58.91. Kitajima pounded the water defiantly and let out a scream after breaking Hansen's 2-year-old record of 59.13.

Hansen was left without a medal, fading to fourth behind silver medalist Alexander Dale Oen of Norway and Hugues Duboscq of France, who took bronze.

Kirsty Coventry didn't even bother waiting until a final to set a record in the 100 backstroke. The Zimbabwean won her semifinal heat in 58.77, taking down Natalie Coughlin's mark of 58.97 set at the U.S. trials last month.

They'll go head to head in Tuesday morning's final. Coughlin won her heat in 59.43 with a nice, comfortable swim.

Seven world records have been set through the first 2 1/2 days at the Water Cube.

Phelps had another race to care of, moving on to the final of the 200 free with the fourth-fastest time of the semis. Trying to save as much energy as possible for the leadoff leg of the relay, the American touched in 1:46.28 to finish behind teammate Peter Vanderkaay (1:45.76) and South Korea's Park Tae-hwan (1:45.99).

Jean Basson of South Africa also went faster in the other heat, winning in 1:46.13.

While Hansen still has a swim left in the medley relay, he'll go down as one of the major disappointments of the American team. A one-time world record holder in both the 100 and 200 breaststrokes, he didn't even qualify for the Olympics in the longer race.

Putting all his hopes of beating Kitajima in the 100, he wasn't close to the Japanese star, finishing 0.66 seconds behind.

"I've just had a really off year, on a really important year," Hansen said. "I just feel like that's not the last you're going to see of me. I'm going to bring it back and I won't be done until I at least have a legitimate shot at those world records again."

Hansen swam over to Kitajima's lane to congratulate the winner.

"That's a hell of a swim, and he is a true champion," he said.

Coventry put down quite a challenge to Coughlin. Then again, Coughlin has been known to rise to the challenge - when Hayley McGregory broke her world record in the prelims at the U.S. trials, Coughlin came back in the very next heat to take it back.

Now, Coventry has it, and Coughlin can't be too happy about that.

"It's going to be a tight final," Coventry said. "Natalie's just so good at racing and planning out her races, so I just expect nothing but fast, fast swimming tomorrow morning."

Coughlin will be side-by-side with Coventry in the final.

"It went very well," she said. "It's exactly where I wanted to be going into the finals. I'm happy with that. I just need to recover and focus on my final."

Libby Trickett of Australia just missed another world record in the women's 100 butterfly, winning gold with a time of 56.73. American Christine Magnuson claimed the silver (57.10) and another Aussie, Jess Schipper, took the bronze (57.25).

SHERLYN

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Matilde Hocog (77), Su Jeong Yi (77), Wang Lin (78), and Pil Sun Kitami (78) did not qualify for the Top 10 points system despite carding low scores because they failed to submit their scorecards for handicap purposes, according to CWGA.

Established in March 2007, CWGA is a nonprofit organization founded to promote, encourage, and introduce women to the sport of golf in the CNMI.

The organization intends to accomplish the following: 1. Promote civic and community interest in golf; 2. Establish and encourage competition and good sportsmanship; 3. Promote and provide social functions of the members and their families; 4. Promote youth golf activities; and 5. To do any or all things necessary and proper to accomplish its purpose and intention.

CWGA also commits its members to abide by a set of values that will further enrich a golfer's performance, attitude, and conduct-adopted form the USA Junior Golf Association.

The set of values members of CWGA are committed to faithfully are as follows: perseverance; sportsmanship; respect; honesty; judgment; responsibility; reliance; courtesy; and sincerity.

RAGING

From Page 28

fighters who have lost and are looking to redeem their performance and try to earn their way onto bigger more prestigious events."

He added that Pacific Xtreme Combat, or PXC, is looking for top talent from the CNMI in various weight classes for upcoming PXC events in Guam.

"Trench Tech is the only link to making it to 'the big time' and a chance to fight and make big bucks in PXC! Therefore, Rites of Passage is the perfect opportunity and proving ground to showcase your skills and prove yourself!"

Tickets for Rites of Passage 5: Raging Warriors will be sold at $20 for all seating and it will be first-come, first-serve as far as seating arrangements are concerned.

Alvarez, meanwhile, said details of Trench Warz IX—Trench Tech's final event of 2008—will be forthcoming in the months ahead. He said there is a possibility that now mainland-based Frank "The Crank" Camacho will take part in the MMA event.

TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

MLB STANDINGS

AMERICAN LEAGUE

East Division

	W	L	Pct.	GB
Tampa Bay	71	46	.607	–
Boston	67	51	.568	4 1/2
New York	63	55	.534	8 1/2
Toronto	59	59	.500	12 1/2
Baltimore	56	60	.483	14 1/2

Central Division

Chicago	65	51	.560	–
Minnesota	65	52	.556	1/2
Detroit	58	59	.496	7 1/2
Kansas City	54	64	.458	12
Cleveland	52	64	.448	13

West Division

Los Angeles	74	43	.632	–
Texas	61	58	.513	14
Oakland	54	63	.462	20
Seattle	45	73	.381	29 1/2

NATIONAL LEAGUE

East Division

Philadelphia	64	53	.547	–
New York	62	55	.530	2
Florida	62	56	.525	2 1/2
Atlanta	55	63	.466	9 1/2
Washington	44	74	.373	20 1/2

Central Division

Chicago	71	47	.602	–
Milwaukee	67	51	.568	4
St. Louis	65	55	.542	7
Houston	58	59	.496	12 1/2
Pittsburgh	53	64	.453	17 1/2
Cincinnati	52	67	.437	19 1/2

West Division

Arizona	60	58	.508	–
Los Angeles	58	59	.496	1 1/2
Colorado	53	67	.442	8
San Francisco	50	66	.431	9
San Diego	46	72	.390	14

Yesterday's Games

Florida 8, N.Y. Mets 2
Houston 13, Cincinnati 4
Philadelphia 6, Pittsburgh 3
Milwaukee 5, Washington 4, 13 innings
San Diego 16, Colorado 7
San Francisco 5, L.A. Dodgers 4
Arizona 6, Atlanta 1
Chicago Cubs 6, St. Louis 2
Detroit 6, Oakland 1
Cleveland 4, Toronto 0
Texas 15, Baltimore 7
Chicago White Sox 6, Boston 5
Kansas City 5, Minnesota 4, 12 innings
L.A. Angels 4, N.Y. Yankees 3
Tampa Bay 11, Seattle 3

PGA CHAMPIONSHIP SCORES

BLOOMFIELD TOWNSHIP, Michigan (AP)–Scores Sunday from the U.S. PGA Championship at the par-70, 7,395-yard Oakland Hills Golf Club course:

FINAL ROUND

Padraig Harrington	71-74-66-66	277
Sergio Garcia	69-73-69-68	279
Ben Curtis	73-67-68-71	279
Camilo Villegas	74-72-67-68	281
Henrik Stenson	71-70-68-72	281
Steve Flesch	73-70-70-69	282
Phil Mickelson	70-73-71-70	284
Andres Romero	69-78-65-72	284
Alastair Forsyth	73-72-70-70	285
Justin Rose	73-67-74-71	285
Jeev Milkha Singh	68-74-70-73	285
Charlie Wi	70-70-71-74	285
Ken Duke	69-73-73-71	286
Aaron Baddeley	71-71-71-73	286
Paul Casey	72-74-72-69	287
Stuart Appleby	76-70-69-72	287
Prayad Marksaeng	76-70-68-73	287
Graeme McDowell	74-72-68-73	287
David Toms	72-69-72-74	287
Brian Gay	70-74-72-72	288
Robert Karlsson	68-77-71-72	288
Angel Cabrera	70-72-72-74	288
Boo Weekley	72-71-79-66	288
Nicholas Thompson	71-72-73-73	289
Brandt Snedeker	71-71-74-73	289
Fredrik Jacobson	75-71-70-73	289
Retief Goosen	72-74-69-74	289
Mark Brown	77-69-74-69	289
Jim Furyk	71-77-70-72	290
J.B. Holmes	71-68-70-81	290
Ian Poulter	74-71-73-73	291
Paul Goydos	74-69-73-75	291
Ernie Els	71-75-70-75	291
Sean O'Hair	69-73-76-73	291
Chris DiMarco	75-72-72-72	291
D.J. Trahan	72-71-76-72	291
Robert Allenby	76-72-72-71	291
Geoff Ogilvy	73-74-74-70	291
Steve Elkington	71-73-73-75	292
Rory Sabbatini	72-73-73-74	292
Steve Stricker	71-75-77-69	292
Briny Baird	71-72-73-77	293
Mike Weir	73-75-71-74	293
Michael Campbell	73-71-75-74	293
Tom Lehman	74-70-75-74	293
John Senden	76-72-72-73	293
Michael Allen	70-75-71-78	294
Carl Pettersson	71-74-76-73	294
Billy Mayfair	69-78-75-72	294
Dean Wilson	73-73-77-71	294
Charles Howell III	72-76-77-69	294
John Merrick	73-75-70-77	295
Peter Hanson	71-73-75-76	295
Charl Schwartzel	77-70-73-75	295
Anthony Kim	70-75-74-77	296
Tim Clark	76-72-73-75	296
James Kingston	72-76-74-74	296
Justin Leonard	74-71-72-80	297
Pat Perez	73-73-79-72	297
Steve Marino	73-74-75-76	298
John Mallinger	72-75-77-74	298
Chez Reavie	78-70-78-72	298
Corey Pavin	75-73-73-78	299
Niclas Fasth	73-73-75-78	299
Mark Calcavecchia	71-76-76-76	299
Paul Azinger	72-76-76-75	299
Kevin Sutherland	76-71-77-75	299
Peter Lonard	74-74-74-78	300
Hiroyuki Fujita	77-70-76-77	300
Bubba Watson	75-73-77-76	301
Richard Green	71-77-79-76	303
Rocco Mediate	73-74-72-85	304
Louis Oosthuizen	76-72-81-77	306

2008 BEIJING OLYMPICS

Partial Medal Count

	G	S	B	Total
USA	3	4	5	12
CHN	7	3	0	10
KOR	3	2	0	5
AUS	2	0	3	5
FRA	0	3	2	5
RUS	0	3	2	5
JPN	2	0	2	4
ITA	1	2	1	4
GBR	2	0	1	3
PRK	0	1	2	3

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Sakudi players lead Belau batting and pitching

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
REPORTER

With Sakudi still unbeaten in five games, it is not surprising that its players are leading the batting and pitching races in the women's league of the 2008 Belau Amateur Softball Association.

Pauline Tudela went 10-for-14 in five games to top the batting race after the first round of the regular season. She had a batting average of .714, beating nine other players.

The Top 10 batting leaders were determined based on 12 or more times at bat.

Atu Asi's Kuki Pangelinan is currently in second place with a batting average of .600. She went 9-for-15 at bat in six games with Atu Asi, which is at the bottom of the team standings with a dismal 1-5 record.

Jenny Teigita and Liz Lebria of Esta Ombe are tied for third with identical batting averages of .583. They both hit 7-for-12 from the plate.

Atu Asi's Pauline Camacho is in solo fourth, going 7-for-13 for an average of .538, while Ohn Sakau's Dolorina Panuelo and Kayla Techur of Sakudi are sharing fifth place, recording an average of .533 after hitting 8-for-15.

Others who made it to the Top 10 were Ohn Sakau's Roquita Norita (.529), Merselyn Santos (.500) and Semerina Simram (.500).

Five players tied for the most runs scored with seven each. Comprising the list are Emma Tenorio, Santos, Jenny Palacios, Berta Camacho and Techur.

Berta Camacho and Jenny Palacios had two doubles apiece with the latter making the most triples with two. Panuelo also had two triples.

Melissa Benjamin and Poly Omechelang are leading the home runs race with two each, while Norita is on top of the RBIs list with 10.

In the pitching race, Sakudi players are occupying the top two spots. Charlene Cabrera played only one game and in five innings allowed only three hits, giving up no runs and leading Sakudi to a win. She has a 0.00 ERA.

Cabrera's teammate Bego Camacho is in second place with a 2.15 ERA. She played four games, pitched 26 innings, allowed 32 hits and gave up six runs.

Felisa Brel of the Hitters, who shares the lead with Sakudi, is currently the third leading pitcher in the league with a 4.20 ERA. Panuelo is in fourth place recording a 4.83 ERA, followed by Teigita (7.00 ERA), Omechelang (8.65) and Meng Yamada of Atu Asi (13.65).

Yamada has the most strikeouts with 10.

The pitching leaders were based on five or more times at bat.

In the men's division, Choll A's Manny Sablan is the pacesetter in the batting list with an average of .692. He went 9-for-13 at bat in five games.

Leo Bobai of SAI-PAL hit 8-for-12 for an average of .667 to remain a strong contender for the batting king.

Auel Auel's Lucian George (.615) is in third place, followed by Brotherhood's J.J. Laniyo (.563), PIC's Tomy Kennington (.556), Brotherhood's Ben Tagabuel (.550), PIC's Thunderson Sokau (.545), the Falcon's Jarvis Pinaula (.538), Brotherhood's Jerry Ayuyu (.538), Ready Mix's (538) and Mendel Techur (.538).

Julian Camacho failed to make it to the Top 10, but leads the league in the most run scored category with 10. Ben Taisacan has the most doubles so far with four, while seven players have one triple each.

Jerry Ayuyu is ahead in the home runs race with three, while Laniyo is on top of the RBIs' leaderboard with 11.

PTI's Roque Camacho beat nine others in the pitching contest. He had an ERA of 0.78 in three games, pitching 19 innings, allowing 13 hits and giving up only one run.

Brotherhood's Elias Rangamar is in second place with a 2.00 ERA.

Completing the Top 10 were Ready Mix's Henry Palacios (2.45 ERA), George (2.74), Man Amigos's Mike Sablan (2.95), Laiyo (3.29), the Falcons' Al Ngiraibuuch (3.36) PTI's Tony Luzama (4.00), Bobai (4.55) and Haga T's Mel Tudela (4.55)

Ruben Olkeriil leads the strikeouts race with 10.

The men's league is on the midway point of the regular season with two teams having unbeaten records. Brotherhood is undefeated in six games, while Man Amigos are still clean after three assignments.

Walking enthusiasts from Japan to grace SAIWAI event

By MARK RABAGO
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ASSISTANT EDITOR

A couple who shares a passion for walking will grace the 7th Annual Foundation & Family Day Walk set on Aug. 16 along the Saipan Beach Pathway.

Yasuhiro Kameda and his wife, Mayumi, are from Fukui Prefecture and learned about the Saipan Walking Association, Inc.'s event while surfing the Marianas Visitors Association website.

"They plan to come to Saipan for diving but when they checked out the MVA homepage, they found out about the Family Foundation Walk. They are looking forward to join the event and would like to enjoy the beautiful nature of Saipan," said SAIWAI board member Hiroko Tajima.

The Kamedas are scheduled to arrive in the CNMI today, Aug. 12.

"The couple just loves walking and whenever they have a chance, they join walking events," added Tajima.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Last year's 6th Annual Foundation & Family Day Walk attracted a total of 30 participants. Photo above shows volunteers at the 10-kilometer turnaround point near the Oleai Beach Bar and Grill.

SAIWAI's 7th Annual Foundation & Family Day Walk will start from the Chamolinian Utt in Garapan and heads south toward the 10-kilometer turning point near Oleai Beach Bar and Grill in Oleai.

Those who wish to take on the shorter course, can take the five-kilometer variety of the event, which turning point is at the Japanese Tank in the intersection of Beach Road and Quartermaster Road.

Registration for the 7th Annual Foundation & Family Day Walk will begin promptly at 6am and registration is free. Those who want to buy SAIWAI's signature event T-shirts, they only need to fork out $8.

Like all SAIWAI activities, IVV members will receive credit for joining the 7th Annual Foundation & Family Day Walk.

IVV has member walking clubs in the U.S., Canada, Brazil, Japan, South Korea, Turkey, Nepal, Australia, New Zealand, the CNMI, and 29 other European countries, including Germany.

For more information about the 7th Annual Foundation & Family Day Walk and SAIWAI's future events, contact Hiroko Tajima at 322-8781 or Bea Quitugua at 285-1694.

SAIWAI was incorporated as a non-profit corporation on July 27, 2001 and was established to promote public health through non-competitive walking.

Miller Lite Marianas Cup on Aug. 22-24

By MARK RABAGO
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ASSISTANT EDITOR

The softball season is officially in full swing as Pacific Trading Co. will hold its 6th Annual Miller Lite Marianas Cup Slow-pitch Softball Qualifier from Aug. 22 to Aug. 24 at a still unspecified field.

PTC sales manager Mike Babauta expects the number of teams to trump last year's 10 as he is already getting a lot of inquiries from interested teams since last week.

"There are actually no caps on how many teams but 15 would be great. We are actually expecting more teams this time around as last year we only had 10. I have been getting calls already even without advertisement," he said.

Babauta added that he expect great softball action this year with defending champion No Ka Oi looking to continue its tradition of winning the tournament year in and year out.

"They have won the last five tournaments and they are looking to repeat but other teams out there are might have other ideas," he said.

The winner of the qualifier will represent Saipan in the 6th Annual Miller Lite Marianas Cup Cup Slow-pitch Softball Tournament set for Sept. 6 on Rota.

Entry fee for the qualifier is $150 and interested teams have only until Aug. 21 to sign up. Tournament format is modified co-ed and to spice things up, PTC will host a homerun derby for the sport's longball specialists.

For more information about the 6th Annual Miller Lite Marianas Cup Slow-pitch Softball Qualifier, call Jovie Flores at 256-5515 or 287-5515, Joe Salas at 256-1374, or Joe Flores at 483-7834.

Last year, No Ka Oi earned the top seeding and the first finals berth after a three-game sweep of all its assignments.

They met Brotherhood, which beat Potbus to earn the second finals berth, in the championship game where they scored an 18-9 win.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
No Ka Oi's Elias "Jun" Saralu whacks one for a base hit in their championship match against Brotherhood in last year's Miller Lite Marianas Cup at the Dandan Elementary School Softball Field.

It was the fifth straight title for No Ka Oi in the annual tournament since winning the inaugural games in 2003.

SML sets meeting for Budweiser, Fall, Masters leagues

By MARK RABAGO
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ASSISTANT EDITOR

Saipan Major League commissioner Tony Rogolifoi has scheduled meetings for all three of its competitions—Budweiser SML, SML Fall, and SML Masters—this week and next month.

The BSML meeting is set today, Aug. 12, 12 noon at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium conference room.

Rogolifoi said the agenda for today's BSML meeting will revolve around the selection of 2008 awardees. The awards that will be given away after season's end are regular season MVP, Sportsmanship, Pitcher of the Year, Catcher of the Year, Rookie of the Year, Coach of the Year, and Manager of the Year.

He said all managers or coaches of participating teams in the 2008 BSML are being requested to attend.

The SML Fall meeting, meanwhile, will be held on Thursday, Aug. 14, 5:30pm at the Ada Gym conference room.

Topics to be discussed will include the league's opening date, league format, eligibility documents, fees, and other related matters.

Rogolifoi said interested teams are asked to bring rosters and, if possible, entry fee of $800, payable to Saipan Major League.

The SML Masters, on the other hand, is set for, Sept. 4, 5:30pm at the Ada Gym conference room. The agenda will be the upcoming Masters League for players 35 years old and over penciled to start in October.

Teams are asked to start securing sponsors. Entry fee is $800 and is payable to the Saipan Major League.

For more information about the BSML, SML Fall, and SML Masters, contact Rogolifoi at 288-3515.

Sakudi players lead Belau batting and pitching

With Sakudi still unbeaten in five games, it is not surprising that its players are leading the batting and pitching races in the women's league of the 2008 Belau Amateur Softball Association.

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Favre cheered on penalty lap at 2nd Jets practice

Even Brett Favre isn't immune to some punishment at practice. The New York Jets quarterback fumbled a snap from Nick Mangold on Sunday morning and knew what was coming next: his first penalty lap.

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CNMI junior netters 10-1 in Day 1

By MARK RABAGO
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ASSISTANT EDITOR

CNMI junior netters had an auspicious debut in the 2008 Pacific Oceania Junior Championships with Ji Hoon Heo, Mayuko Arriola, Thea Minor, Christian Miller, Rafael Jones, and Dina Jones going 10-1 in the first day of action in Lautoka, Fiji.

Heo, who has been off-island since June as member of Pacific Oceania Juniors team, leads the Commonwealth's and North Team's campaign after winning his first two games without dropping a game.

The 16-year-old Marianas High School student beat Devashkar Reddy of Fiji, 6-0, 6-0, and Chris Sami of American Samoa with the same score in Pool A of the boys' 18-under division.

Other results in Pool B saw Ian Honila of Solomon Islands beat Sami, 6-0, 6-0, and Reddy with the same score.

Arriola, meanwhile, mirrored Heo's success in Pool B of the girls' 18-under age group after similar love-set victories over Priscilla Vosa of Fiji and Kesaia Mu'amoholeva of Tonga.

The 18-year-old University of Oregon aspirant's main rival in the pool, Marcia Tere-Apisah of Papua New Guinea, also scored victories over

See CNMI on Page 26

Arriola

Heo

What a race! Lezak keeps Phelps' hopes alive

AP

Members of the U.S. relay team show their medals during an awarding ceremony after setting a world record to win the men's 4x100-meter freestyle relay final in the National Aquatics Center at the Beijing 2008 Olympics in Beijing, Monday, Aug. 11, 2008. They are from left: Cullen Jones, Jason Lezak, Michael Phelps and Garrett Weber-Gale.

By PAUL NEWBERRY
AP NATIONAL WRITER

BEIJING (AP)—With history about to slip away and Michael Phelps cheering him on, Jason Lezak pulled up next to the lane rope and set out after hulking Alain Bernard, like a NASCAR driver drafting down the backstretch at Daytona.

Only 25 meters to go, half the length of the pool. Every stroke brought Lezak a little closer, a little closer, a little closer, his body seemingly carried along by the Frenchman's massive wake. The two lunged for the wall together. When the result flashed on the board, Phelps was still on course for his record eight gold medals.

By a fingertip.

Lezak, the oldest man on the U.S. swimming team, pulled off one of the great comebacks in Olympic history Monday morning, hitting the wall just ahead of Bernard in the 400 freestyle relay, a race so fast it actually erased two world records.

Few sporting events live up to the hype—this one exceeded it. The 32-year-old Lezak was nearly a body length behind Bernard as they made the final turn, but the American hugged the lane rope and stunningly overtook him on the very last stroke.

Wow!

"This has been happening my whole career," Lezak said. "People have gotten on my lane line and sucked off of me, so I

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US routs host China 101-70 in Olympic opener
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Raging Warriors set for Sept. 27

By MARK RABAGO
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ASSISTANT EDITOR

TRENCH TECH

Rites of Passage 5: Raging Warriors is set for Sept. 27 and this early Trench Tech president Cuki Alvarez is calling on all interested up-and-coming fighters to sign up for the MMA event set at the Trench Tech in San Antonio.

Alvarez

"All interested fighters and teams are urged to sign up now in all weight classes. This is your opportunity to earn your 'right to pass' and a chance to participate in Trench Warz IV: The Annihilation set for Dec. 6."

Alvarez said like previous Rites of Passage events, Raging Warriors will again serve as proving grounds for young talent looking to make it to the big show.

"This event caters to the first- or second-time fighter or

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Sherlyn Jones is women's August golf tourney winner

By MARK RABAGO
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ASSISTANT EDITOR

Sherlyn Jones won the CNMI Women's Golf Association August Ace of the Month Tournament held last Saturday, Aug. 9, at the Laolao Bay Golf Resort.

Jones edged runner-up Terue Ukita by a stroke after her gross score of 86 (42-44) was sliced by her 13 handicap, giving her a net score of 73.

Ukita settled for second place with her 74 net, which she carded after shooting a gross of 85 (47-48). She has a handicap of 11.

Terry Tudela, Song Eun Joo, and Doll Yamagishi completed the Top 5 with net scores of 76 (46-45, 91 gross, 15 handicap), 77 (47-45, 92 gross, 15 handicap), and 78 (50-49, 99 gross, 21 handicap), respectively.

A total of 19 CWGA members took part in the August Ace.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

The CNMI Women's Golf Association held its August Ace of the Month Tournament last Saturday at the Laolao Bay Golf Resort west course.

The scores of the other participants, with their net scores in parenthesis, are as follows: Lourdes Kim (80), Kyang A. Yang (80), Shiori Onoue (81), Yuko Togawa (81), Kyung Ran Soe (82), Sachiko Adachi (83), Noriko Togawa (85), Kimiko Abe (85), Bennet Seman (90), and Lorraine Babauta (90).

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